

Sketch

Rebel dampens PM's sunny day



Simon Hoggart

THE front page of yesterday's Sun asked of Mr Blair: "Is this the most dangerous man in Britain?" They are cross about his policy on the euro.

Obviously the Prime Minister expected to be asked about this at Question Time, so he arranged for George Turner (Lab Norfolk NW) to ask a supportive question.

Mr Turner, the original natterjack toady, inquired sycophantically whether he had been "shocked, amused or flattered". Then he added, "more seriously . . . as if it had all been a lighthearted joke and the Tories collapsed with derisive laughter."

Mr Blair, equally well prepped, wished the Sun had put a more flattering description in the headline, such as "He has the potential to be a truly great Prime Minister". Then he added sternly that newspapers had the right to print what they liked, but he intended to govern in the national interest.

This was all roughly as prompted by the embarrassing banter you hear at a Royal Variety Performance. Mr Blair and Rupert Murdoch are great friends. If they are now pretending to have had a falling out, there is some deeper, perhaps darker, reason which will remain hidden from the rest of us who exist mainly to be manipulated by them.

Peter Lilley, the deputy leader of the Conservative Party, then challenged him over welfare payments. William Hague has been ill with a virus for several days. Mr Lilley sounded querulous by comparison, rather like Dr Niles Crane in the television sitcom *Frasier* learning that someone has forgotten to *chambré* his vintage Margaux. "Bring back Slicknote!" shouted Dennis Skinner.

Alan Beith, standing in for

Paddy Ashdown, wondered gently whether the Sun's attack might make Mr Blair think again about press magistrates with near monopolies and their predatory pricing policies. Mr Blair kicked into his *faux naïf* mode. "Just because a newspaper expresses a view on the single currency is no reason why we should start legislating on it."

Vincent Cable, a Liberal Democrat, asked whether it was not time to get the whole single currency business out of the way with a referendum before the next election. "The Sun has set on your strategy," he said. Mr Cable is my MP, so I'm sure he will not mind if I say that he usually looks hunched, saturnine and brooding. Yesterday he was smiling broadly at his own little joke, so that he looked like Igor taking a particularly fresh brain back to Dr Frankenstein.

Then the whole session went pear-shaped for the Prime Minister. Mr Lilley made — for him — a fairly effective attack on the extraordinary fact that English, Welsh and Northern Ireland students have to pay more to go to Scottish universities than people from other European Union countries. (The Lords voted out the relevant clause on Tuesday.)

Mr Blair began to blather. It was all to do with maintenance grants and fairness to other British universities. None of this sounded very convincing. But then neither did Mr Lilley.

Up rose Denis Canavan, an old unreconstructed Labour

leftie. Mr Canavan was clearly stone-cold sober but, like many passionate Scots, sounded as if he is permanently drunk. He sarcastically requested permission to ask "an awkward question", and proceeded to repeat everything Mr Lilley had just said, as if he had been sleeping off his lunch for the previous 10 minutes.

But so angry was he, so articulate and so savage in his contempt for the Labour lickspittles who never ask an awkward question, that dozens of Tories stood up for him, cheering and waving their order papers — a sight as astounding as seeing bare-chested tattooed English fans cheering a Colombian goal tomorrow night.

Development Secretary accuses Labour MPs of stoking old row over Sudan 'compassion fatigue'

Short stands by aid claim

Lucy Ward Political Correspondent

THE International Development Secretary, Clare Short, yesterday clashed with Labour MPs who accused her of failing to answer claims that more humanitarian aid was needed to ease the crisis in Sudan.

Ms Short, summoned before the International Development Committee, rebuked critics for seeking to "stoke an old row", and strongly defended her view that gaining access to areas beset by civil war remained the key obstacle to delivering supplies.

In a hearing marked by sharp exchanges between her and the Labour leftwingers

Bernie Grant and Ann Clwyd, the Development Secretary stood by her comments last month that aid agencies were risking "compassion fatigue" through emotive funding appeals that made people "flinch and turn away".

Accusing critics of "hysteria" and "misrepresentation", she told MPs she regretted only the "misreporting" by the "mad media".

The committee, two of whose members have recently visited disaster areas in Sudan, summoned her after she bewailed development agencies earlier this month by claiming that a public emergency appeal that raised millions of pounds for the region was unnecessary and misleading. Government aid was adequate, she told charities.

Yesterday, she insisted that the problem for the region was access, not resources. Though the Sudanese government had lifted a ban on aid flights in April, it remained difficult to reach the worst-affected areas, since permission had to be sought for each flight. Roads and rail links in Sudan, struggling amid civil war for 30 years, are considered too hazardous to transport aid.

Far from seeking to limit funding to the region, the British government had warned the World Food Programme three months ago that its assessment of the access and resources required was too low. Ms Short said.

Ms Clwyd, who has sought to raise awareness of the Sudan crisis in Parliament,

read out a letter from aid agencies suggesting that too little money had been made available by international governments.

Ms Short replied: "Is it most helpful for people like you to keep going over and over this ground, or is it most helpful for us all to combine, as the NGOs agree to get more aid in?"

Dennis Canavan, another Labour member of the committee, told Ms Short there seemed to be "almost a conflict between your department and yourself and the NGOs — possibly most of the NGOs". Ms Short replied that her remarks had sparked "a big public debate about the nature of assistance to Sudan".

The Development Secretary

believes overseas aid should target longer-term development problems, to strike at the heart of disasters, rather than focusing piecemeal on immediate crises. In a speech last month to a conference organised by Disasters from Disaster Zones, she warned: "If it is all humanitarian we are just going round in an endless cycle that never reaches a solution. The cycle reaches a solution."

Her comments prompted Peter Walker, director of disaster policy for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to hit back. "It is a bit like blaming 999 crews because we have a lot of road accidents."

Labour MP Tess Kingham, a former charity worker, wel-

comed suggestions that serial disaster appeals were not enough, but told Ms Short her comments had sparked public concern "because people were feeling we were saying 'don't give to humanitarian aid'".

Ms Short stressed she had invited aid groups to talk to her about how the Government could "co-ordinate aid" appeals, leaving the groups more time for relief work.

Challenged by Ms Clwyd over apparent discrepancies between the current government assessment of need and the view of aid workers in Sudan, Ms Short suggested those on the ground could not always see the full picture.

Aid agencies, "like everyone else . . . never say we've got enough of everything," she said.

'If William and Harry see me as some kind of interfering uncle they don't want to see, I'm sure they will make it clear'

Earl Spencer



Earl Spencer on television last night: 'I respect the Queen enormously but know other members of the royal family less well'

Brother fails to conjure up Diana magic

Spencer's BBC interview lends a lie to Dodi marriage myth and offers no regrets for that speech. Luke Harding reports

WE HAVE seen several Earl Spencers in recent months. There has been the grieving brother, the unfaithful husband, and the acerbic attacker who famously stuck one into the Windsors.

Last night the 34-year-old earl slipped back into an old persona, becoming again the thing he once was, a television presenter.

In a 45-minute interview with the BBC the earl talked about his sister Diana's death and paid tribute to his two nephews Princes William and Harry.

He also revealed that he wrote his famous Westminster Abbey address at 4.30am the day before the funeral and took back none of his cutting references to "blood family".

"I'm not going to sit here and criticise my relatives," he said, making it clear he would make the same speech again, given half the chance.

"I respect the Queen enormously but know other members of the royal family less well."

Cynics might suggest the timing of last night's broadcast was not entirely coincidental. Next week the doors of the Spencer estate, Althorp,

will be flung open to the public, and the first pilgrims will be able to pay their respects to Diana, who is buried on an island in the middle of an ornamental lake.

The earl has borrowed millions to finance the conversion of an old stable block into a Diana museum, and yet some of the \$9.50 tickets remain unsold. Ten per cent of the proceeds will go to the charity, with the rest going to pay off his large overdraft.

The earl made clear last night, to her credit, the BBC interviewer Sally Magnusson did not buck the big questions. "Wasn't he just creating a tourist Graceland?" she asked.

"On the figures I've got we're going to make quite a big loss this year," the earl replied wistfully.

What about the charge that he was a hypocrite in complaining about tabloid intru-

sion, having sold his story to *Hello* for a six-figure sum? "I don't go along with that," he said, recounting how a tabloid editor had phoned his divorce hearing last year and made it clear he was out to get the unfortunate earl.

Had he considered the feelings of Prince Charles, when he made his Westminster Abbey speech attacking the Windsors? "Really I was picking up on the magic of Diana," he said artfully. "It was a tribute to Diana. I wasn't taking any swipes at anyone."

Come off it, Ms Magnusson interjected, you virtually brought down the royal family. "I wasn't aware of that," the earl replied deadpan.

As for William and Harry: "If they see me as some kind of interfering uncle they don't want to see, I'm sure they will make it clear."

The reality, as he is well aware, is that the Windsors have done their best to freeze him out.

As for William and Harry, they recently decided to spend their summer holiday with their father, rather than the earl's sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale.

There were moments when the earl's interview had the feel of a glossy corporate video. At other times it was genuinely moving, with old cine footage of a gamine, tiny Diana larking around for the camera.

Her old school uniform was displayed, as was her passport as a child, together with a letter she wrote to "mummy and daddy" complaining of a power cut.

There were the dresses hanging in an ornate store room, some warm words about the woman herself. "She had an incredible sense

of humour. She was great fun to be with. A really entertaining person," the earl said.

He admitted that they had fallen out when Diana had asked whether she could use the Althorp estate as a bolt-hole when her marriage crumbled. He had refused, and Diana had severed contact with him for several months.

Lord Spencer dismissed the idea that she was about to marry Dodi Fayed at the time of her death, and the conspiracy theories which have swirled around their deaths.

"Monstrous really," he said. "It was, all in all, the kind of polished performance you would expect from a former NBC presenter. But why, one wondered, did the earl feel it necessary to talk at all?"

Fury over Diana park, page 4; Beatrice Campbell, page 9; Leader comment, page 9

Review

Poignant journey into a lost world

Michael Billington

The Old Neighbourhood Royal Court Downstairs

DAVID Mamet constantly writes about the fear and fantasy that underlies male bluster. But his latest play, though deeply personal, sounds a wider, more universal note. It is about the mid-life sense of loss, about awareness of mortality and about abandonment of community in a deeply individualistic age. It is as poignant as anything Mamet has written.

Running only 80 minutes, it takes the form of three interwoven scenes in which the hero, Bobby Gould (Mamet's alter ego), returns home in search of his roots.

In the first and most typically Mamet-esque encounter Bobby meets an old buddy, Joey. Beneath all the bullish backchat, what you hear is the sound of pain. Filled with reminiscence and the corrosive sadness of missed chances, it is, if you can imagine such a thing, like a Jewish version of the *Shallow Silence* scenes in Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part Two*.

In the second scene, Bobby meets his married sister, Jolly, seething in her kitchen over her maltreatment by her inherited gentle relations.

"One thousand generations we've been Jews," she cries. "My mother marries a shei-

get and we're celebrating Christmas."

The piece is suffused with a yearning for a lost past — in

this case the sibling intimacies of childhood — and a resentment of the humiliations resulting from their late mother's marrying out.

Finally, Bobby meets up with an old flame, Deeny, a divorcee who works in the cosmetics department at Marshall Fields. As she talks of everything from gardens to tribal rituals, what you sense is the impossibility of rekindling a passion that has its moment but that has now irrevocably passed.

Although writing specifically about the loss of Jewish identity and the perils of assimilation, Mamet is also dealing with the Chekhovian theme of what-might-have-been. Bobby becomes the epitome of anyone who returns to his past and is confronted by age, change, lost time and missed chances. This is Mamet at his most autobiographical and yet his most universal.

Needless to say, he also shows his usual uncanny ear for the elliptical rhythms of everyday speech, something well caught in Patrick Marber's fine production played out against William Dudley's sepia images of a lost communal life.

Colin Stinton captures with deadly accuracy Bobby's steadily accumulating despair and there is time work from Zoe Wamaker as the enraged, jaundiced Jolly, from Linal Haft as the falsely nostalgic Joey and from Diana Quick as Deeny.

This review appeared in some later editions yesterday.

Hospital patient in good heart after sleepwalk home

Martin Wainwright

A HEART-ATTACK victim is recovering after of a hospital coronary ward in his sleep and trekking five miles home in the rain, wearing only pyjamas and carpet slippers.

Woody with sedatives and heart drugs, Michael

Turner, aged 48, a factory shift manager, unclipped computer monitors and slipped out from Leeds general infirmary unchecked, despite two previous "escape attempts" earlier in the night.

Mr Turner, who said that he "couldn't remember a thing about it", wandered through Leeds centre, passed Elland Road football

ground and crossed the city's ring road before arriving home at 5.20am.

He told his distraught wife Sandra, who had been running the hospital when nursing staff noticed he was missing at 2am: "Hello, I've been jogging." She said yesterday: "I was frantic with worry and I just burst into tears. He was standing there, swaying from side to

side. He looked drunk." The hospital said that Mr Turner, who had switched off a monitoring alarm and pressed a security button to leave the ward, was "sedated but conscious" and had slipped out during an emergency in the coronary unit.

He had previously wandered off down a corridor and, several hours before

his flit, had got as far as three floors below the ward when he was stopped, wearing a surgeon's operating pumps and carrying surgical gel.

"The problem with hospitals is that they aren't prisons and although there are security measures they are mainly to stop people coming in rather than stop them getting out," said a

spokesman, adding that the infirmary did not enjoy "losing" people.

Mr Turner, of Woodlands Drive, Morley, said that he was sanguine about doctors' advice not to tackle any hills until he recovers fully. His semi-conscious route home, he said, "must have involved walking up a fair few, though I don't remember them."



It's pocket-sized with a can hook up to the Internet block unwanted calls as a complete office on

Smart p

CONSUMERS will soon be able to buy a pocket-sized mobile phone allowing them to see the Internet, or a computer to organise their time, block unwanted calls and act as a complete office on the move.

The mobile phone companies are looking to buy operators alike — have used a campaign to capture the world that wire- a portable communication is not just for business, but for ordinary users.

The world's three largest mobile phone — Ericsson and Motorola — yesterday joined forces with the portable computer support from a 250 mil-

Leaky, rusty

Doors stick, battery fails, hydraulics collapse, US owner alleges inaction against Lamborghini

Wheels Kettle in Washington

WHEN you are paying an asking price of \$1 million dollars, you do not want your new Lamborghini to leak oil or to have the doors to get stuck or the battery to fail. Or the dashboard lights to flicker. Or the hydraulic system to collapse. Or the engine to stall.

In all of that allegedly happened to John Martin of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when he bought one of his savings in a Lamborghini Diabolo. "I wanted a quality car," Mr Martin said. "With all the money you're expected to expect the best."

Mr Martin claims a series of events of envious eyes of up to 220mph down the Florida coast roads have caused his pride and joy is running. Now Mr Martin claims the Automobili Lamborghini company for knowingly selling him a defective

In the beginning As Richard Gordon contributed a National Health Colin Douglas on the G2 NHS at 5

Cleared for take-off

Now you can check-in at Paddington, you're flying the moment you board the Heathrow Express.

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مكتبة الامم

4 BRITAIN

Billie-Jo's foster father tells murder trial of 'nightmare'

Leanne Harding

THE foster father of murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins yesterday described how he "would collapse" when he found her body lying on the patio, adding: "It was like a nightmare."

Sion Jenkins said he crouched beside 13-year-old Billie-Jo and whispered: "Things are going to be okay," in her ear. "I was stunned by what I found. I just froze," he told Lewes Crown Court in East Sussex.

Jenkins, aged 40, denies murdering the 13-year-old at his home in Hastings, East Sussex, on February 15 last year.

Giving evidence on the third day of his defence, Jenkins said he believed Billie-Jo was still alive when he returned from a car trip with two of his natural daughters, Annie and Lottie. She was found by Lottie who screamed: "Dad."

"I went down to her and pulled her shoulder," Jenkins told the jury. "Her head was limp and she was covered in blood. I didn't know what to do next. I went to the dining room and told the girls: 'Billie-Jo has had an accident, but she is going to be okay.'"

The prosecution claims the deputy head teacher had bludgeoned her to death with an 18-inch tent peg only minutes earlier, while Annie and Lottie waited in the street.

Asked by Richard Camden QC, prosecuting, why he had made no effort to revive her, Jenkins replied: "I



Sion Jenkins: 'I panicked. I was horrified by her injury'

just panicked. I was absolutely horrified by her injury. My mind was spinning."

The court was told Jenkins dialled 999 and asked for an ambulance. He was told by the operator to check whether the girl was breathing and put her in the recovery position. But he failed to do so.

"You knew there wasn't an ounce of breath left in her body. It didn't matter if you tended to her," Mr Pratt suggested.

"That's wrong," Jenkins replied. "I had Billie-Jo lying on one side of the house. I had the children on the other, crying and screaming. I was running between them. You don't have any understanding of what it was actually like in that house when I returned."

The jury heard that after finding the body, Jenkins summoned a neighbour for help. He also washed blood off

his hands. He then sat in his MG sports car parked outside. Asked why he had done this, "while Billie-Jo was dead or dying on your patio", he replied: "To put the roof up."

That evening, Jenkins refused to wear the blue fleece jacket he was wearing at the time of the murder; it was claimed. Forensic tests showed it was covered in microscopic spots of blood. According to the prosecution, Jenkins killed Billie-Jo "in a few minutes" after collecting his daughter, Lottie, from a music lesson and returning home, and before setting off again on a "pointless" trip to buy white spirit.

A forensic scientist, Duncan MacKirdy, told the court the blood spatter found on Jenkins' jacket was not "entirely attributable" to a high impact blow. Tests by the defence suggested the tiny spots of blood could have been caused by Billie-Jo breathing out blood through her nose. "This might propel a small cloud of blood droplets," he said.

Under cross-examination, Jenkins, who spent 8½ hours in the witness box, claimed Billie-Jo was still alive when they left on the second car journey. He said he had heard Annie talking to her but was unable to recall details of their conversation. "I wasn't savadropping," he said.

Asked whether he had lost his temper with Billie-Jo because she was playing music loudly, before attacking her and feeling in a panic, he replied: "I deny these accusations."

The trial continues.



As close as he got... Scotland star Craig Burley passes a World Cup poster as he arrives at Marseille airport on his way home. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF MITCHELL

Kensington furious over Diana park

Amelia Gentleman

RESIDENTS of one of the country's richest boroughs have responded with fury to proposals for a memorial garden commemorating Diana, Princess of Wales, in Kensington Gardens, scene of widespread public grieving in the week after her death.

The proposal for a new garden dedicated to the princess's memory was one of the most popular ideas submitted to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee when they appealed to the public to suggest ways of commemorating her. It was one of five preliminary memorial proposals announced yesterday by Chancellor Gordon Brown, the committee's chairman.

Mr Brown stressed that the plans for the £10 million redesign of the park would not go ahead until people from the neighbourhood and local authorities had expressed their views, but residents said they believed consultation would do little to alter plans.

The remaining proposals provoked mainly positive responses. The image of Diana, Princess of Wales, as the "people's princess" is to be preserved through a range of commemorative projects designed to reflect her "commitment to care", Mr Brown said.

A £5 coin is to be issued in her memory, and other key proposals include community nursing teams to support seriously ill children and a medal

for school children who have worked hard to improve the lives of others.

The committee, which includes Diana's former butler, Paul Burrell, and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, says its members, guided through 10,000 suggestions submitted by the public before selecting the final five.

Controversy over the memorial garden has been brewing for some months.

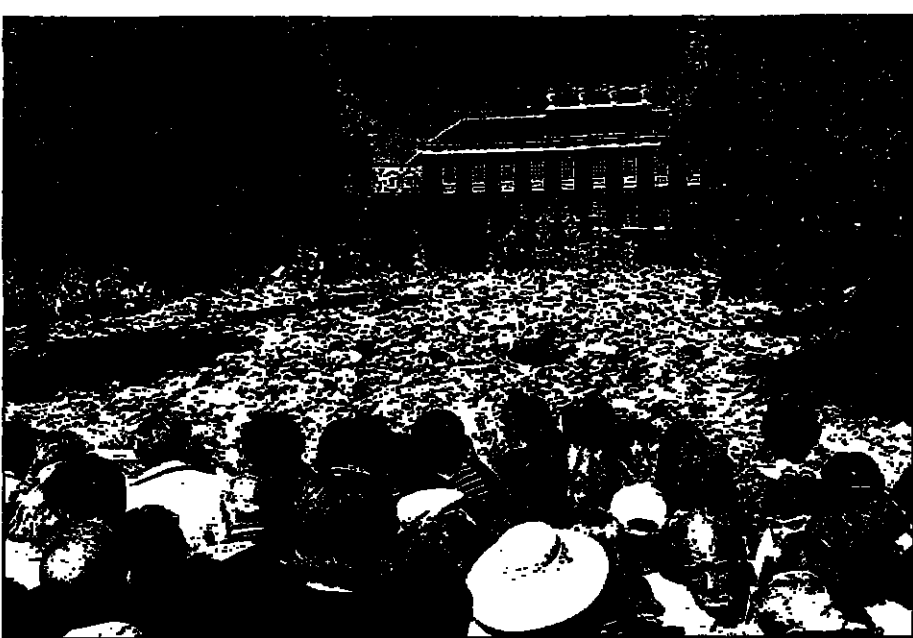
Locals are concerned about the traffic and crowds the garden would attract and Kensington's Conservative MP, Alan Clark, has said the plans were a waste of money and represented the "new dumbed down millennium culture".

Mr Clark's criticism yesterday by stressing that residents would be involved before plans were finalised. Consultation sessions are scheduled to begin on the July 6.

But he stressed: "Members of the public will continue to visit Kensington Gardens, and the memorial committee feels that the gardens should be enhanced, in a sympathetic way, as a place of remembrance."

Robert Burton, of the Princess Diana Memorial Action Group which has attracted considerable support since it was set up last week, said: "Finding the image which annoyed and angry people are. They are already beautiful gardens and much loved by everybody — it seems absurd to spend £10 million of public money on changing them."

Janet Mayhew of the Ken-



Flowers strewed the ground outside Kensington Palace last August. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN AYLES



See Campbell, page 2; Leader comment, page 9

In memoriam

Nursing teams Community children's nursing teams will be set up, dedicated to caring for terminally ill children in their own homes and providing support for their families. There is a shortage of professionals to care for young people with cancer, cystic fibrosis and organ failure at home.

School Award This special achievement award will be presented to youngsters who have made an outstanding contribution to the community, improved the lives of vulnerable members of society or overcome difficulties in their lives. Schools will be looking out for children who have taken the initiative themselves.

Memorial Garden The most controversial aspect of yesterday's announcement, the exact plans for the garden remain unclear and will only be revealed when the public

consultation process begins next month. Preliminary proposals are thought to include a two gardens, a 200ft fountain and a children's playground outside Kensington Palace.

Memorial Walk Described as a "memorial walk" for the anniversary of the princess's death, the committee hopes it will provide a "popular and healthy" option for those wishing to visit "places closely associated with the princess". By encouraging visitors to walk three miles committees members believe congestion around the garden may be reduced.

Commemorative Coin Likely to be available in time for the anniversary of the princess's birth on July 1, 1999, these coins will have the Queen's head on one side and may feature the princess on the back. Two limited editions will be issued in addition to the standard coin.

£200,000 bet says England will win

World Cup 98

Diary

A FOREIGN businessman has placed the biggest bet ever in British bookmaking — £200,000, at odds of 4-5, on England beating Colombia tomorrow.

"We are not aware of any larger bet on any event. It is certainly a huge vote of confidence for Glenn Hoddle," said a spokesman for William Hill, after the unnamed man put the money down yesterday.

HOWEVER, the Diary can exclusively reveal that he will make a fortune — since England will win 2-1. We

know this for a fact because Andrew Clark, aged 16 and the country's youngest clairvoyant, has told us. Andrew — who is also the reincarnation of a 14th century Spanish prince called Carlos, and is possessed by the angry spirit of an ugly slave girl called Florentina — has predicted Michael Owen will score first and Paul Ince will add a second. Rather than relying on form, ability or any other football mumbo jumbo, Andrew simply looks at pictures of the players for inspiration ("I just know who will score").

Andrew's remarkable powers (past triumphs include predicting the deaths of the Princess of Wales and Versace) were passed to him by his grandmother who, he says, watches over him and in his dreams gives him the answers to exam questions. We await his GCSE results with interest.

TWO thousand condoms, each tipped with a soccer ball and the flag of a participating nation, have been sent to the World Cup in France by a Czech company.

Jamie Wilson

The condoms, sporting the colours of France, Italy, Germany and England, have been produced by ERO which makes more than 100 different models of condom, in sizes ranging from "standard" through to the impressive 16in by 3in "jumbo". Other themed condoms range from vegetables (carrots are particularly popular) to musical ones that play Love Me Tender. For last weekend's Czech election, the firm received a rush order for 5,000 condoms topped with the heads of party leaders. The Diary demands a Glenn Hoddle version.

MEANWHILE, on Monday in the city of La Plata in Argentina, three people engaged in a little light banter on Argentina's 5-0 whipping of Jamaica were surprised when a neighbour approached them and began a furious argument. They were even more surprised when he pulled out a gun and shot them in the legs and arms before running off.

Jamie Wilson

Man guilty of role in Docklands bomb

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

A 29-YEAR-OLD man was yesterday convicted of conspiring to plant the Docklands bomb which killed two men in February 1996.

James McArdle, aged 29, a bricklayer and farm labourer from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, was convicted unanimously at Woolwich Crown Court in south London of conspiring with persons unknown to cause explosions between October 30, 1995, and February 10, 1996.

The jury had not yet reached a decision on two further charges of murder of newspaperman Ian Blair and his assistant John Jeffries, and will continue their deliberations this morning.

The conviction follows a 2½-week trial in which the court was told that McArdle had played a key part in the explosion at South Quay in Docklands which caused £150 million worth of damage and injuries to more than 50 people. McArdle had already

stood trial but, through no fault of his or of the prosecution, a retrial had been ordered.

Prosecuting counsel John Bevan QC had told the court that a lorry packed with more than a ton of home-made explosive had caused devastation. Warnings had been given but they had been imprecise and had allowed the police insufficient time to clear the area.

FC Roger de Graf told the two men who were killed that a bomb warning had been given but they had not acted swiftly enough and were killed instantly.

The court heard that the explosion, coming at the end of a period of ceasefire, had taken people by surprise and many may not have believed the warning.

"This was a major operation which must have involved a large number of people, each with their own expertise," Mr Bevan told the jury at the start of the trial. "You may think it something of a miracle that more people were not killed."

The court heard that the lorry had been brought to England from Northern Ireland earlier in the year on a dummy run, with McArdle as a driver. Fingerprints linking him to the lorry had been found on a number of items.

McArdle pleaded not guilty to all offences. He told the court that he drove the lorry but was unaware of what it contained. He believed he was bringing the lorry to pick up second-hand cars from auctions.

McArdle told the court that his "boss" had told him to hand over the lorry to another driver whose identity he did not know. The hand-over took place at South Mimms service station in Hertfordshire, he said, and he had then taken a lift back to Northern Ireland.

"I did not know where it was going then or who that driver was," McArdle told the court. "I am telling the truth."

He told the court that he supported the IRA but believed that the bombing was wicked.



James McArdle: acted as driver

GCSE targets planned

Byers expected to set five good grades as goal for 50pc of pupils

John Carvel Education Editor

MINISTERS are preparing ambitious targets to improve the performance of 16-year-olds at GCSE and eliminate the "scandal" of 40,000 pupils leaving school without qualifications after 11 years of compulsory education.

They are expected to announce next month that at least half the school-leavers should get five good passes at grade C or above.

Stephen Byers, Minister for School Standards, told the Council of Local Education Authorities conference in Buxton, Derbyshire, that there would be a legal obligation on every school to publish three targets by the end of this year for GCSE and vocational equivalents.

These would cover the proportion of pupils getting five grades A* to C, the proportion getting at least one grade G, and the average points score.

Mr Byers said the first national GCSE targets would be announced next month. The levels will not be fixed until the Treasury's spending review establishes how much is available for this aspect.

"Funding will be made available so that no youngster is written off and every youngster is given the opportunity to achieve at least one qualification," he said.

Last year, 45.1 per cent of 16-year-olds got five good grades at GCSE, and it is unlikely that ministers could

justify setting a target below half.

Mr Byers said it might be difficult to ensure all children got at least one GCSE or vocational equivalent, because there would always be some whose special needs made exams difficult. But 7.7 per cent left with nothing last year, a figure that should be reduced.

"This was the missing bit of our agenda," he said. The Government had previously set literacy and numeracy targets for 11-year-olds. "The time has come to do something at secondary level. The task would be harder because 16-year-olds were suffering from years of neglect of primary education."

Mr Byers also signalled the Government's intention to switch funding from schools in middle class suburbs to more hard pressed areas. "This will be bad news for Surrey," he said.

Yesterday the two appeared to be very distant indeed as Murdoch's blow delivered an unexpected blow to the Prime Minister by suggesting that he might be "the most dangerous man in Britain".

In a front page leading article, Blair was castigated as being "determined to promulgate" his single curative. As a "charming, persuasive politician" he has "decided to use his popularity to seduce and persuade the voters to back him". But the article will be "a determined opponent" to such a move.

No wonder politicians and journalists alike viewed this as proof of a breach between Blair and Murdoch. The paper that announced the election of "We back Tony Blair" has apparently been on him. But that is too facile an analysis.

Women safer drivers than men except at junctions

Jamie Wilson

WOMEN have known it for years, but now it is official: a study has revealed that women are better drivers than men.

Men drive faster, break the law more often and are more likely to drink and drive than women. "Men look for thrills behind the wheel, while women seek independence," said Frank McKenna, a psychology professor who led the Reading university study commissioned by the AA Foundation for Road Safety Research.

As well as detailed analysis of accident statistics, the study looked at the performance of 480 drivers aged 17 to 80 which found that despite the large increase in the number of women drivers, women continue to be safer drivers than men.

Men are more likely to die than women, and the high opinion that men have of their driving skills is not justified, the survey found.

The worst offenders are young male drivers who are particularly likely to drive too close to the vehicle in front, say they "enjoy overtaking", more than women, and are most likely to be stopped by the police.

However, there was one area where men came out on top: women are twice as likely to have accidents at junctions than men. "The high fatality rate of young drivers suggests that they are not sufficiently well equipped to deal with the driving tasks they face."

When Tony Blair stood for Parliament in 1993 he did not intend to phase with the European Economic Community. By 1997 Neil Kinnock was attracted to "working class" John Smith was an enthusiast.

All that suited Blair's gut instincts. During the 1994 leadership contest, he conceded there were "technical problems" with the euro, but Blair's very different pragmatic position.

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Blair

Michael White Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday brushed aside the Sun's assault on his policy towards the European single currency and insisted that it remains unchanged and patriotically committed to British interests.

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Paper's ham a yobbish w

Roy Greenslade on the state of play between PM and the tabloid he won over

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Yesterday the two appeared to be very distant indeed as Murdoch's blow delivered an unexpected blow to the Prime Minister by suggesting that he might be "the most dangerous man in Britain".

In a front page leading article, Blair was castigated as being "determined to promulgate" his single curative. As a "charming, persuasive politician" he has "decided to use his popularity to seduce and persuade the voters to back him". But the article will be "a determined opponent" to such a move.

No wonder politicians and journalists alike viewed this as proof of a breach between Blair and Murdoch. The paper that announced the election of "We back Tony Blair" has apparently been on him. But that is too facile an analysis.

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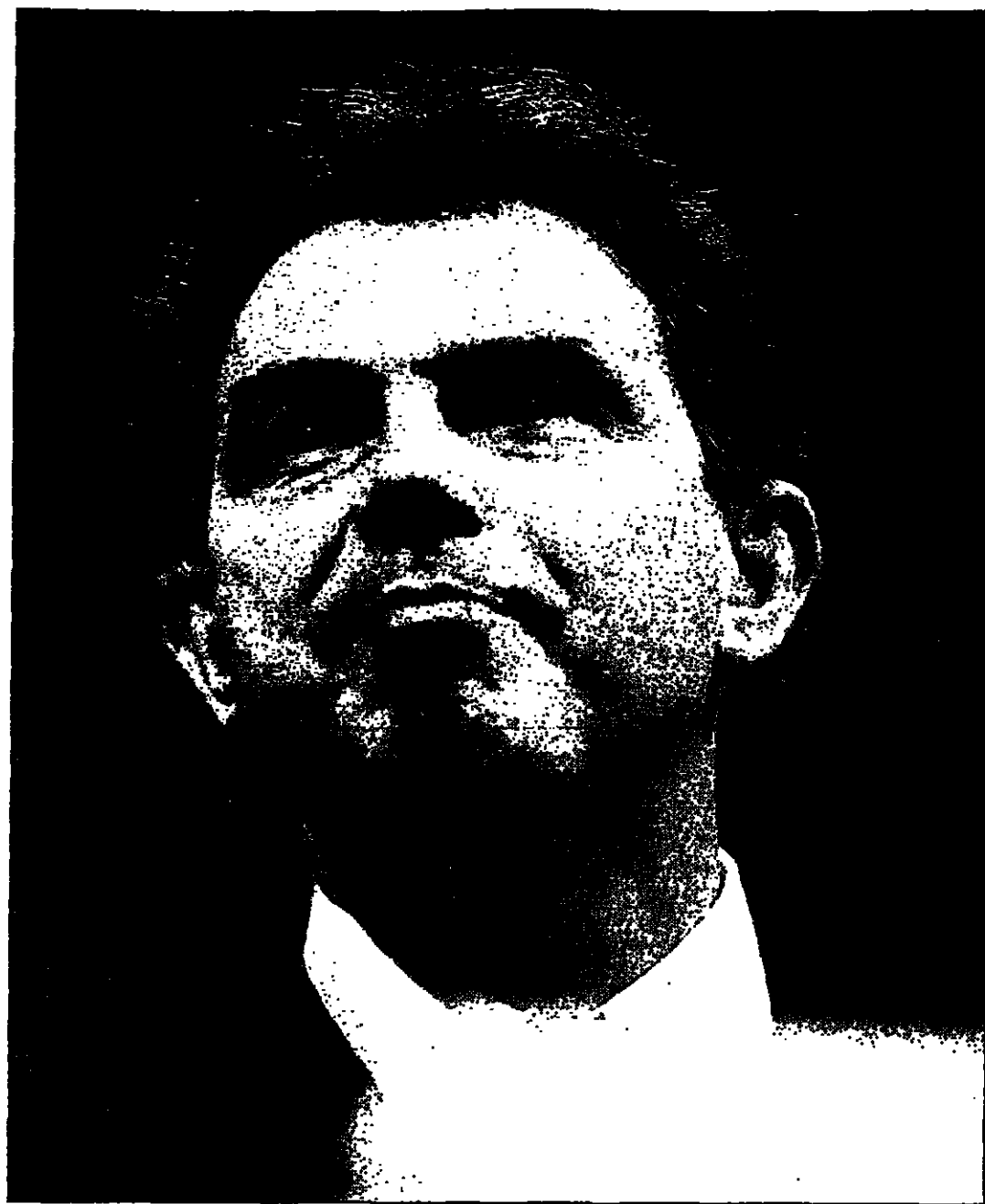
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صكتا من الامل

Prime Minister reaffirms policy on Europe



Tony Blair, right, who has courted the tabloid flagship of Rupert Murdoch, left, backed off from a fight with the newspaper after it called him potentially 'the most dangerous man in Britain.' However, he sounded less enthusiastic than recently on the single currency, the subject of its bitter attack



Blair cooler on euro after Sun blast

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday brushed aside the Sun's assault on his policy towards the European single currency and insisted that it remains unchanged and patriotically committed to British interests.

"We have a very firm policy. It was set out last October and will be maintained. That policy is in the national interest, because it refuses to rule

out a single currency in principle, and says the test is what is good for British jobs, British industry, British investment," he told MPs.

But it was noticeable that Mr Blair, whose courtship of Rupert Murdoch's tabloid flagship has been a crucial element of his political strategy, avoided picking a fight with the Sun as he might have done with other newspapers which called him potentially "the most dangerous man in Britain". And he managed to refrain from sounding as enthusiastic about the euro

as he did 10 days ago at the EU's Cardiff summit.

That was enough last night for the Sun to pat itself on the back for what it sees as a public-spirited reopening of the domestic debate on the pros and cons of Britain joining the 11 EU states which are committed to the euro from January 1 next year.

Downing Street insiders dismissed the paper's three-page restatement of its trenchantly anti-single currency views as a simple case of a newspaper trying to generate publicity and shift extra copies.

Inside the paper's Wapping HQ it was being said that the Sun's new editor, David Yelland, had merely decided to restate the paper's position after weeks of speculation that, at Mr Murdoch's behest, it might be preparing the ground for another major U-turn like the one which led it to back New Labour at the election.

"Newspapers are entitled to their view, but we govern in the national interest," Mr Blair told MPs at Question Time. Faced with the Sun, he sought to position Labour

in the pragmatic midstream, with the Liberal Democrats committed to the euro at any cost and the Tories refusing to join "no matter what the economic circumstances".

A Downing Street spokesman insisted that Mr Blair's widely reported praise for the euro in Cardiff — as a force for stability and growth in a world of financial turbulence — did not reflect any change of view. The feeling persists, none the less, that the Prime Minister and his Chancellor want to take Britain in when circumstances give them the

opportunity to win the promised referendum, in 2001/2002.

The Conservatives gleefully fell on the Sun's editorial statement as proof that they are back in tune with public opinion and the tabloid press. Coincidentally or not, the new shadow chancellor, Francis Maude, made Europe the subject of his first major policy speech yesterday. He argued that true pragmatism was to wait and see if the euro "works in bad times as well as good and to draw on real experience," before deciding whether to join.

William Hague is trying to steer a course between his Europhile and deeply phobic wings by ruling it out for this and the next parliament.

Mr Maude, a former merchant banker, rejected assertions that there will be greater exchange rate stability inside the system, that the money saved by not having to exchange currencies will exceed the costs of changing to the euro, and even that it would produce lower interest rates for home owners and industry. Germany's long term rates were already higher

than Britain's, he said. Mr Maude also raised the bogey of EU tax harmonisation, which for low-tax Britain "can only mean one thing, tax rises," he said, arguing that Britain's economic cycle moved in step with that of the United States rather than France or Germany. "In a mysterious way that no one really understands, the English-speaking economies of the world tend to track each other," he said.

Hugo Young page 8
Lander comment, page 9

Paper's ham-fisted Blair bashing a yobbish way to launch debate

Roy Greenslade
on the state of play between PM and the tabloid he won over

ON Monday Rupert Murdoch and Tony Blair sat next to each other at the funeral of Sir David English. There was the odd shared smile as they chatted afterwards. They appeared to be getting along just fine.

Yesterday the two appeared to be very distant indeed as Murdoch's Sun delivered an unexpected blow to the Prime Minister by suggesting that he might be "the most dangerous man in Britain".

In a front page leading article, Blair was castigated for being "determined to propel us into the single currency". As a charming, persuasive politician, he has "decided to use his popularity to cajole, seduce and persuade the voters to back him". But the Sun will be "determined opponent" to such a move.

No wonder politicians and journalists alike viewed this attack as proof of a breach between Blair and Murdoch. The paper that announced before the election "We back Tony Blair" has apparently turned on him. But that is too facile an analysis.



The Sun's front page yesterday and editor David Yelland



Right from the beginning of its conversion to New Labour in January 1997, the Sun has distanced itself from the party's pliant approach to the single European currency. It is known that Murdoch, the previous editor, Stuart Higgins, and the political editor, Trevor Kavanagh, are opposed to the euro, and the paper's comment columns, heavily influenced by news stories and choice of features have reflected that.

The editor since June 8, David Yelland, obviously shares that viewpoint and is re-stating the paper's position. As he said yesterday: "We'll go on supporting Mr Blair, except over the euro."

He suggested that his attack

on Blair was aimed at starting "a national debate on the most important issue facing the country". If we accept that at face value, then it was a ham-fisted effort and, most importantly, did not come across as the act of a friend.

We know the Sun never knowingly indulges in sophistication, but did it really think it needed to bludgeon Blair in this fashion? It was a yobbish way to open a debate. What it suggested was not a genuine split between Murdoch and Blair but the inexperience of an editor trying to put down his marker. Yelland said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme that it was "ridiculous" to imagine that Murdoch wrote

the headline, and that is undoubtedly the truth. It is likely, though, that he was informed before publication about the tone of the leader.

What he would not have grasped was the presentation, and it was this that was surely way over the top.

Sun let us put this matter in perspective. Blair is not going to need to decide on Britain's adoption of the euro during this Parliament. This ill-timed and ill-judged Sun front page, engendered by Blair's apparent enthusiasm for the euro at the Cardiff EU summit last week, is not going to stimulate a national debate in the foreseeable future.

It is another shot across the bows, a reminder to Blair that if he does decide to go for the euro he will be at odds with the Sun. I think it safe to say he knows that. The Sun and Blair have agreed to differ.

Stories of his converting Murdoch privately to his view have been wide of the mark. Both are waiting to see how the first wave works out. Both are pragmatists.

But if they take different lessons from the experiment, so be it. Blair is doubtless prepared for the battle, knowing that the campaign to influence a largely apathetic public will require him to overcome the Sun's antagonism, not to mention that of the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph.

Bobbing and weaving is hallmark of PM's Euro rhetoric

WHEN Tony Blair stood for Parliament in 1983 he did so committed to phased withdrawal from what was then the European Economic Community, writes Michael White.

By 1987 Neil Kinnock was recognised to "working constructively with our EEC partners". John Smith was also an enthusiast.

All that suited Blair's gut European instincts. During the 1994 leadership contest, he conceded there were "potential benefits" to the euro, despite technical problems for Britain's very different economy. That remains his pragmatic position.

So, by January 1995 he was telling Brussels that Labour would play a full role in developing European Monetary Union (EMU). "For us the key

question is whether we can, through greater cooperation, achieve the degree of integration and convergence necessary for a single currency."

Significantly, from a man who had long favoured a referendum on entry — conceded by John Major early in 1997, that including "persuading the people of Europe that this is a step that it is sensible and right to take".

Before the 1997 election Mr Blair played the Euro-sceptic card. If joining arose in the next Parliament "and I stress the if, just as our manifesto will be with the British people in a referendum".

After his landslide he repeated: "To ensure the single currency is successful, member states must continue to im-

plement reforms of product, capital and labour markets, and to promote employability and job creating entrepreneurship" — the Anglo-Saxon economic agenda he is promoting alongside Bill Clinton.

After Gordon Brown said Britain favoured entry in principle, in October 1997, Mr Blair told a Dutch audience in January that "barring unforeseen circumstances, we want Britain to be in a position to take a decision... early in the next Parliament, should the economic conditions be met".

In March he declared Britain must "be proud of our diversity and let subsidiarity rule", warning: "We have an economic framework for the EU. We now need a political framework that is dramatically more relevant than the

present one." Bobbing and weaving is the hallmark of Mr Blair's Euro-rhetoric. His instincts are pragmatic, not ideological. Unlike the Sun — and most poll findings — he believes a single currency poses no threat to national independence. If it works, he wants to be part of it.

What alarmed the Sun were his remarks at the Cardiff summit 10 days: "There are two pillars of economic stability in this world of economic instability, the United States and the European Union." The single currency would lay "the foundations for the kind of long period of expansion that the US has just enjoyed... It marks a turning point for Europe." Aides denied any change, but Euro-sceptic alarm bells rang.

“Gold, Silver and Bronze”

(Sony Radio Awards May '98)

“7 Awards, including 2 Gold and 3 Silver”

(The New York Festivals International
Radio Awards June '98)

...AND THE AWARDS KEEP COMING...

“Commercial Radio
Station of the Year”

(KMPG Awards June '98)

talk
radio

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THERE'S A GOOD ARGUMENT FOR LISTENING

French alarm at growth in social divide

Anger as Socialist rule sees rich get richer while poor get poorer

Paul Webster in Paris

A DRAMATIC rise in the fortunes of the rich and a growth in the numbers earning subsistence wages has increased tension within France's Socialist-led coalition government.

It has been revealed that since Lionel Jospin became prime minister a year ago this week the country's wealthiest woman, Liliane Bettencourt, has increased her assets by more than \$2 billion.

Other fortunes rose by as much as four times while the number of workers earning the minimum wage or less went up.

A cabinet decision yesterday to raise the monthly minimum wage by only 210 to 235 francs (34p to 37p) has angered Communists, Greens and Socialist party leftwingers in the coalition.

But in celebrating the first year of leftwing government, Mr Jospin refused to give in to parliamentary pressure for heavier taxes on the rich.

The Communist newspaper, *L'Humanité*, said the 210 rise was worth only two steaks a month. Supported by other non-Socialists in the coalition, Communist MPs have demanded a 4 per cent rise.

Trade unions said workers could not understand why the increase was lower than the national economic growth rate and claimed that the government had given into blackmail by employers.

The brake on the minimum wage coincides with concerns, particularly among Communists, that Mr Jospin is rethinking economic policy to align it with British and American free-market models.

The coalition's left wing was surprised when the

prime minister said during a visit to President Bill Clinton in the United States last week that he had been mistaken about American methods of job creation based on flexibility and now considered the US model an effective policy.

A year of Socialist government has done little to improve the jobless rate of more than 3 million or to prevent more sinking into poverty.

The number of French people earning the minimum wage, known as *Smicardis*, has tripled since its introduction in 1988 to 2.2 million — 11 per cent of the workforce.

More than half of the 3.5 million workers on part-time or shared-job contracts earn far below this level.

The figures look even worse when compared with the impact of the stock exchange boom. The magazine *Challenges* yesterday published its annual list of personal fortunes which showed that many had doubled in 12 months, while one industrial family's assets had quadrupled.

The most reliable barometer of personal wealth, the assets of Ms Bettencourt, heiress to the L'Oréal cosmetics business, showed that she had gained an extra 27 million francs working day since last June, pushing up her wealth from 24.2 billion to 26.5 billion.

The biggest winners came from a wide range of industries including plastics, aerospac and wine. The stock market boom has trebled the value of some shares since January.

"Contrary to common belief, recent leftwing government has always been favourable to the Bourgeois," a Paris broker said. "Mr Jospin used to be a economics professor and he has not forgotten the lessons of market forces."

'God's banker' to be exhumed

Philip Willan in Rome

A JUDGE has ordered the exhumation of the body of a man known as "God's banker" because of the close links between the Banco Ambrosiano, of which he was chairman, and the Vatican bank. The prosecutor's response to a request by Mr Carbone for a limited examination of the body, which Mr Carbone presumably believed would help to prove that the banker had committed suicide.

According to the prosecution, Mr Carbone and Mr Carlo Calvi contacted Mr Di Carlo in London and asked him to organise the murder. Mr Di Carlo then told the Mafia boss to get to work on the assassination.

Five suspects are under investigation for the death of the man known as "God's banker" because of the close links between the Banco Ambrosiano, of which he was chairman, and the Vatican bank. The prosecutor's response to a request by Mr Carbone for a limited examination of the body, which Mr Carbone presumably believed would help to prove that the banker had committed suicide.

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levi, a member of a Rome underworld gang with links to Italian politicians and the secret services.

Carlo Calvi, the banker's son, said he had no knowledge of the prosecutors' response to a request by Mr Carbone for a limited examination of the body, which Mr Carbone presumably believed would help to prove that the banker had committed suicide.

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A Kosovo Liberation Army fighter crosses an Albanian stream on his way to the embattled province. PHOTOGRAPH BY ARBEN CELI

Albanian guerrillas switch off the power of strategic Serbian mine

Jonathan Steele in Ade sees a commando raid on coal supplies

ALBANIAN gunmen of the Kosovo Liberation Army brought the Serbian province's largest coal mine to a halt yesterday, after kidnapping nine Serb workers and causing panic among the rest of the 1,700 staff.

Less than 10 miles from Kosovo's capital, Pristina, the opencast mine fires a 1,129-megawatt power station which feeds into the Serbian national grid and supplies Macedonia and Greece. It has only a few days of coal in reserve, local Serb officials said.

The closure, the biggest blow to the Serbian economy since the guerrillas' seizure of the roadblock behind a haystack at a farmhouse beside the ancient conveyor belts which take brown coal from the mine.

While most of the KLA's gunmen are peasants from the surrounding villages, the operation to shut the Belasica pit was led by a team sent from the region of Drenica.

They began by capturing nine Serb workers on Mon-

day morning as they drove into the roadblock in three separate vehicles.

Word of the kidnapping spread, and although some workers kept the mine going on Tuesday, work stopped yesterday.

"Of course the workers are not going. Nobody will," the director of the Serbian government's information secretariat in Pristina, Bosko Drobnjak, said.

The adjacent Dobro Selo mine remained in Serb hands yesterday, watched by a few blue-uniformed guards standing at the entrance. Its conveyor belts hung silent and empty on their pulleys.

Less than 200 yards away KLA gunmen held the roadblock where the Serbs were kidnapped. Another gunman lay on a concrete wall with a rifle trained on approaching vehicles.

In Belasica, where giant excavators stood idle beside the mine, a KLA officer in combat fatigues said the operation had been run from Drenica. In a rare sign of confidence, he gave his name as Fehmi Lladraku. A woman in a similar uniform stood beside him. "My wife," he said. "There are many couples in the KLA."

Asked if he was not nervous about a Yugoslav army base less than two kilometres away, he

sevo, near the power station, there was no sign of celebrations at the home of Zoran Adzandic, one of the kidnapped Serbs. His relatives and some neighbours sat glumly on the porch as though attending a wake.

"Zoran was with a neighbour and two Albanians when they were stopped," his brother Slobodan said. "One of the Albanians said to the terrorists, 'Take the car but let them go'. He was slapped around a bit, but let go. He came back to Dobro Selo and sounded the alarm."

Slobodan Adzandic said he and the relatives of the other kidnapped men had contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Information Service in the hope of exerting pressure for their release.

At the town hall in Obilic, the regional centre for an area whose population is 45 per cent Serb and 55 per cent Albanian, the mayor, Zoran Milosevic, said, "It wasn't a big group of terrorists. They're trying to provoke a fight. The Serbs aren't scared because the terrorists are not real military formation."

As the West increases its pressure on them to tone down their demands for independence, the political leaders of Kosovo's Albanians are angry with the Russians for backing Mr Milosevic's side.

"The discussion wasn't pleasant at all," the co-ordinator of their negotiating team, Fehmi Agani, said when asked yesterday about their two meetings in Pristina this



NATO secretary-general Javier Solana, right, meets Kosovo leader Ibrahim Rugova in Brussels yesterday.

Nato sheaths sword in Kosovo

Sam Black in London and Jonathan Steele in Pristina

NATO has given its strongest signal yet that it will not back independence for the Albanian majority in Kosovo, insisting yesterday that a political solution must be found to end the bloodshed in the Serbian province.

The Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, told Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo, that he should immediately resume talks on autonomy with President Slobodan Milosevic.

He spoke as Nato governments, increasingly anxious about the progress being made by the Kosovo Liberation Army, planned a new round of crisis meetings to consider their next move.

The KLA has seized control of more than 30 per cent of Kosovo and is constantly threatening to extend its activities.

The Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said before meeting the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, last night: "We are convinced the situation can be stabilised without the use of force."

Last week Nato planes carried out a sabotage exercise on Kosovo's borders. Russia, sensitive to Yugoslavia's territorial integrity and acutely aware of the parallel with Chechnya, has refused to back the UN Security Council resolution needed for Nato to take further action.

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"The discussion wasn't pleasant at all," the co-ordinator of their negotiating team, Fehmi Agani, said when asked yesterday about their two meetings in Pristina this

week with the Russian deputy prime minister Nikolai Annanov.

"On the first evening he mentioned autonomy within Serbia but with some federal links. We said we had been an equal part of the Yugoslav Federation when Albanians were only 8 per cent of the population. We said: 'How can you ask us to accept less now, when we are 20 per cent?'"

The next day the Russian minister "put his emphasis on criticising us for not criticising terrorism". The Albanians concluded that the Russians were "clearly on the Serb side".

The Albanians could not resume negotiations until the Serbs withdrew and the refugees could go home, the Kosovo leaders insisted.

They have been saying the same thing to Richard Holbrooke, the newly appointed US ambassador to the United Nations, who arranged the first encounter between Mr Rugova and Mr Milosevic.

Yesterday Mr Holbrooke toured Decani and other towns and villages heavily damaged in last month's Serb offensive. In Junik he had a brief encounter with KLA gunmen.

"I felt like I was going back into the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta and seeing the same tragic scenario playing itself out," he told reporters. "All I can say is we will give it our best shot."

Mr Holbrooke, who has told both sides that the conflict has reached a critical phase, is due to meet Mr Milosevic again today.

In Paris, President Jacques Chirac said maximum pressure must be put on Belgrade to grant autonomy to Kosovo and end the violence.

"As Bosnia showed, only such an action can stop escalation into a war that would gradually threaten the stability of south-eastern Europe, and open the way to a fair and lasting political settlement," he said.

Sales flat as German youth turn off beer

Dennis Staunton in Berlin

GERMANY'S image as the land of lederhosen, pomp and circumstance and foaming steins of beer is in danger as youngsters put down their Pils in favour of alcopops and lemonade.

Beer consumption has fallen 10 per cent since 1990 and hundreds of breweries could close before the end of the century, according to a report published yesterday.

More awareness about the

dangers of alcohol abuse and a lowering of the drink-drive limit are responsible for part of the fall in sales.

But analysts from MSM Management Consulting in Wiesbaden found that the biggest threat facing beer is its turn-off for young Germans.

"Beer is seen as old-fashioned, high in calories, neither fresh nor healthy. Young people want something light and sporty but beer doesn't seem to be either," said Michael Mueller, one of the authors of the report.

Germans are still the leading beer drinkers in western Europe, downing 131 litres per head in 1997 compared with 101 litres in Britain and only 86 litres in the abstemious Netherlands.

There are 1,259 breweries in Germany, many of which brew local brands for a tiny geographical area, but the six biggest brewers command two-thirds of the market.

Fierce competition and a price war that has reduced the cost of a can of beer to the equivalent of 50p could bank-

rupt about 350 small breweries within two years.

Mr Mueller said: "The problem is that they don't have any idea how to market themselves... Most of the advertising they do produce is a complete waste of money because nobody can tell the difference between one brand and another."

The brewers are spending more on advertising this year but most advertisements are for traditional beer drinkers — male, middle-aged, and unadventurous.



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صكنا من الامل

THE Diary's *Big Brains Award* welcomes a high-ranking contender. Denis O'Connor of the Association of Chief Police Officers revealed the latest theory about crime rates on radio 4's *The World Tonight* earlier this week. Why, he was asked, did some rural areas have very low clear-up rates? "Well," he explained, "the rural areas that have low clear-up rates have low crime rates." Simple enough. Does a low crime rate make the policeman's job easier? "If you've got less offences you have less opportunities for detection," said Denis, "and after you have secured reductions then you really are at the difficult end, as we were, of the scale, and you have got to ease people who fall into our hands, as it were." Humm, as it were.

Blair needn't be afraid of the bully.
Sooner or later he will call his bluff

The British press, like the Tory party, is already preparing to sound like the voice of the deluded past. Soon their selected list will limply fantasise that far away on the fringes of firm government, faced with the reality of what Mr. Major is doing to the neighbourhood, economies, and the opportunities which absenteeism will cost the British, Mr. Blair and his colleagues will be able to instruct the public that they will be starting later. There may yet be a lack of convergence between the political timetable and an economic cycle they can't control. But the facts will force them, in only one direction: towards the Sun, the Spectator, the Sunday Express, and the rest of the herd. It is therefore not a hindrance. On the contrary, it goes to the Government to action. This does require Mr Blair to sever his bonds of thralldom. But he's now unmistakably on notice that he'll have to do so before Europe. The bully in the match.

Private parts

Roy Hattersley

NICE for once to have Gordon Brown and RH Tawney coin the same word. It is neither surprising," Tawney wrote, "in the view that, as circumstances change, a reclassification of the spheres of private and public undertakings is periodically required." Five hundred years ago it was for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be Master Work and Warden of the Royal Mint — so that he could behold anyone who counterfeited groats. But these days nobody complains about private enterprise printing high denomination notes. It is sentiment, not socialism, that argues against low denomination coins being produced in the same way.

ted that, when Tawney insisted that the old order changed, he was arguing for more public ownership, not less. The essay in which he made his case was so convincing that it convinced American academics that Mr Attlee was not a Bolshevik. The Labour Government was nationalising the means of production, and Tawney was explaining that it was driven, not by leftwing dogma, but by desire for a more efficient economy. Questions about ownership, he felt, should be answered not in the light of ideological affirmations of the virtue of either free enterprise or of socialisation, but on the facts of the case". And so say all of us moderates. Unfortunately Mr Tawney was not the wisest of men, and his insight into the merits of the case are to be judged,

ELEGANTS to the 1944 Labour Conference insisted that the promise to nationalise coal, gas, electricity, civil aviation, railways and steel be inserted in the constitution. After Labour won the election, it was of public ownership became so popular that the Tory party adopted it. Everyone agreed that essential services were too important to be run on the profit principle.

These days the National Coal Board sounds as old-fashioned as the East India Company. But there were, back in the 1940s, cogent reasons for nationalisation. The private estate monopoly is harder to argue today. But that does not mean that all forms of public ownership ought to be taboo.

The problem with pendulums is that they swing too far in one direction, they always swing too far back the other

In the early 80s Labour promised to nationalise 100 major monopolies — a policy made difficult to enact by the

fact that 100 major monopolies did not exist. Now it is taken for granted that private enterprise — market capitalism — is the best way of running everything. Sometimes it is. Sometimes it is not.

Market capitalism is insidious as well as lusty. It does not plant the seeds of destruction, but takes root as easily as a sycamore and spreads as quickly as Russian Vine. It now flourishes, without question or limit, in places where, a decade ago, it would have been regarded as absurd and inadvisable. Companies and offenders are now taken from court to prison under the supervision of private sector employees and, once behind bars, are often in the custodial care of a limited company.

Why, we will soon be asked, should the police who should catch and convict the wrongdoers be similarly subject to the disciplines of competition? Fantastic? So was the idea of private prisons not so long ago.

can suburbs, private companies already "top-up" the protection the residents receive from state and municipal governments. The "top-up" public provision with private investment is now part of our political culture. It is the way in which we will soon be paying for our retirement, private pension, and the idea behind the proposal that legal aid should, in many cases, be replaced by individual insurance. Private enterprise is everywhere, even in the Education Action Zones. It already clears the rubbish from our streets, provides domiciliary geriatric care and day care for run-down low income families who receive free school meals.

It may be that private enterprise provides those services more efficiently than the public sector, though we

Private enterprise feeds the children who receive free school meals

often, reduced costs are the result of both devalorizing services for the consumers and reduced wages for the employees. But the problem—at least for me—is that the forward march to private enterprise goes on without any serious criticism arguing its merits. Usually, the only bald assertion that something is going to be moved out of the public sector. Occasionally we are told that it will promote greater efficiency—although that contention is always false. The only source of faith rather than the results of detailed economic analysis. Perhaps air traffic will be controlled more safely after an injection of private capital. Perhaps the Post Office would deliver mail better, faster, if it is a company quoted on the Stock Exchange. I just wish that somebody would start to argue the case, rather than announcing the decision without a word of criticism.

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... What led the Sun to

Letters to the Editor

[illegible]

MPs vote for equality and
childless Alan Shearer
in front of the Guardian.
Christmas come early?
Peter Bradshaw.
Unusual

WORST film ever (Lett
June 20): Bulldog Drum
mond with Ronald Coleman
and Joan Bennett. It is so d
that one becomes hypnotis
by its banality. In one scene
the negative film was asser
died back to front — so the
silly story handkerchief in
the top pocket is on the rig
the one left.
Les Jones.
Tavernhampton

TEGFIELD Follies, seen
twice by mistake.
Sard Rabiger.
London.

Proof were needed of the
Guardian's shift of origin
from Manchester to London
to be found in your wealth
forecast (June 23): "The mu-
tated summer finally
brought signs of arriving."
still raining in Manchester
John Reade.

SHOULD water company bosses decide to reward themselves for averting drought this summer, would their bonuses be subject to an "infail" tax?

Herb Brown.
Trenton.

Hazlitt, Elyo
Plus ça change (Letters, June 19): William Hazlitt made an implicit condemnation of English soccer back in 1825.

...in his essay *Man-
make the Man.*
"In manners make the En-
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... has been pleaded in ex

Mark Steel can say what he likes about her: she's dead and she can't complain. But I'm alive and he should beware of writing about me

Diana and the sexists

Beatrix Campbell

YESTERDAY, Gordon Brown, announced that Britain's latest plans to commemorate Princess Diana. But Guardian columnist Mark Steel had already told us something important: that women in general and feminism in particular were *not* important, that they have nothing important to say about the world.

He seems to believe that they've done nothing important since the miners' strike more than a decade ago. When real women did the decent thing and stood by their men. Unlike Princess Diana.

Steel's dyspeptic column last week also seemed to suggest that anyone who thinks that Diana, despite her "silly" taste in men, might have changed the conditions in which we can contemplate royalty, and

republicanism, is plainly dead — nay, a class traitor. So we're not allowed to disagree about Diana, her pain and her power, nor to ruminate on the republican imitations of her revivations about Churchill, his cold, cruel, complicit family.

Steel stands in a long and lamentable tradition of sexist socialism which suffers from short memory. Unlike the Radicals of 1830, who were persuaded by the plebeian multitudes that there was a connection between the King and the oppression of the queen and his oppression of the people, between sexual politics and constitutional reform, modern leftists unburdened by feminism dismiss those connections that stirred so many of the people last September.

No doubt they'd diagnose the people, like me, as suffering from the disease of "false consciousness," that

to Stalinists Trotskyists and to dissidents alike. It's such a shame, the people are always the problem.

By saying that Diana's revelations about the royal family are a load of rubbish, we are saying we are unashamedly contaminated by the people, become mute monarchists.

Mark Steel belongs to a superior sect of socialists who take the Nicholas Soames line on Diana, who believe that she was, as fellow columnist Joan Smith put it, silly "spoiled and spoiled."

What is it that these people can't bear? That a woman made us think about the royal family? That an aristocratic woman did what none of the rest of us with much better class credentials have done: scare the royal family?

Mark Steel can, of course, tell us what he thinks about Diana. She's dead and buried. She's dead and buried. But we can't say anything. But we can't say anything.

live and he should beware of writing about me. He writes that I'm a treacherous feminist who once cared about class but who now carebothers about "lifestyles" by day and clatters "at dinner" by night. He says that I "missed" an "exciting period in the battle for women's liberation". He says that while I and feminists like me were mesmerized by the idolisation of a "modern Marie Antoinette" aka Princess Diana — the past time worrying about "republican and socialist" — I missed the real rallying: I missed the social real men, the great movement of women for the local communities (Women Against Pit Closures) during the 1984-5 miners' strike which I'd madly imagined as "machbo politics". He must have missed my book, "Woman Worker", my television and my columns of mining and men. He

must have missed its critique of George Orwell's upper class contempt for working class politics. He must have missed my Channel 4 documentary in 1984 on the miners' strike and women's movement in the coal communities. Sure, the

miners' leaders made the fatal, macho mistake of deciding to dispense with democracy. Their cause was honourable though their conduct was doomed. But he must have missed me and my women's group (which supported the

women's campaign in the coal communities) at the triumphant rally organized by Women Against Pit Closures after the miners' defeat. Perhaps he wasn't there.

He must have misread my 1984 book, *Goliath*, on riots, working class communities, crime and justice, gender and generation. He's entitled to misread me. But why make him so? It might have been just a mistake: maybe he didn't just make a mistake: maybe he meant to dismiss this work by denying it.

He wouldn't be the first man to adjudicate over which women are proper feminists or socialists, and he wouldn't be the first to misread a paper because he's not challenged by their politics.

Beatrix Campbell's new book is *Diana, Princess Of Wales: How Sexual Politics Shocked The*

Hazlitt, Eliza
plus ça change (Letters, 1919); William Hazlitt
was an implicit condemn-
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ans in France, nearly 200
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made the Man.
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صَدَقْنَا مِنَ الْإِصْلَاحِ

'I tried hard to make the McLibel film into something we could transmit'
Anne Reeve, Letters

The break with Blair

Murdoch has gone too far

MOURNERS at the funeral of Sir David English earlier this week were treated to a singular sight. Behind the coffin of the former Editor of the Daily Mail as it was borne out of St Bride's Church in Fleet Street walked two men: Rupert Murdoch and Tony Blair. They looked deeply uncomfortable at this all too public juxtaposition. By the time the cortege had reached the street — and the waiting cameras — Mr Blair had managed to place several yards between himself and the chairman of News Corporation. It is not that the Prime Minister and the press baron do not get on: quite the opposite. Mr Blair has expended much energy on getting on the right side of Mr Murdoch — just as he did with Sir David. But such courtships are best played out in private, rather than before a hand-picked audience of journalists.

So it will have come as a rude shock to Mr Blair to find his face plastered all over the front page of Mr Murdoch's Sun yesterday, accompanied by the question: "Is THIS the most dangerous man in Britain?" The paper devoted three pages to a searing attack on his purported views on the single currency, with a warning that the paper would "fight, fight, fight" him over any softening on his attitude towards the single currency. Its editorial noted imperiously that when it decided to back Blair at the last election "we did not give him a blank cheque."

What led the Sun to this pitch of bullying hysteria is anyone's guess. Some have sug-

gested that its new editor wished to make his mark. But the notion that any editor of the Sun would launch such an attack on a prime minister without the Boss's approval is as far-fetched as David Beckham deciding to join his team mates on the pitch without the prior permission of Glenn Hoddle. We may be sure that Mr Murdoch sanctioned the assault, if not its clumsy execution. Others have suggested that it was a piece of crude commercial opportunism by the Sun in response to the revival of the Mirror, which has distanced itself from the Government. But this would hardly explain the ferocity of the attack, nor the way in which it was anticipated the previous day in the Sun by Mr Murdoch's representative on earth, the mysterious Dr Irwin Steltzer.

There are two morals from the strange episode: one for Mr Murdoch and one for Mr Blair. The moral for Mr Murdoch is that, for the first time in his professional life, he is looking out of touch. It is too soon to say whether the appointment of David Yelland, a journalist who made his reputation in America writing about Wall Street, will prove to have been a misjudgement. But neither Mr Murdoch nor Mr Yelland can, on this evidence, claim to have a sure finger on the pulse of contemporary Britain. The mood is one of cautious, pragmatic suspicion about the euro rather than one that summons the name of Winston Churchill while shrieking last-ditch resistance. Mr Yelland is too new to these shores and Mr Murdoch has been spending too much time in 747s. They have hit a false note with this concerted attempt to regain the Sun's old Gotcha glory days.

The moral for Mr Blair is to sup with a long spoon. It made pre-electoral sense to fly halfway around the globe at Mr Murdoch's bidding, just as Mr Blair was right, as Leader of the Opposition, to launch a charm

offensive upon Sir David English and Viscount Rothermere. But, as Prime Minister he cannot afford the suspicion that his views on a single currency — or anything else — are being tempered with a view to their reception in Wapping or Kensington High Street. His measured response to the Sun's little tantrum suggests that he has begun to take that message on board. If so he really could be dangerous: but to Mr Murdoch rather than Britain.

Ban landmines

Give Diana a proper memorial

AROUND the shrine swirls a sea of mawkishness, bad biography, political opportunism and quick ways to make money. (Hasn't Gordon Brown got better things to do than play the loyal numismatologist?) Yet there is a decent way of memorialising the Princess of Wales, and it's implementing the Ottawa Treaty prohibiting the use of landmines. It was her best work. As always the cameras popped, but thanks to them we are left with the compelling image of the Princess of Wales in Africa, her cause the elimination of a weapon capable of causing horrible civilian casualties.

A world-wide ban is feasible. The conditions of warfare can be regulated, the sale and transfer of weapons is not some necessity of history. The treaty has been signed by 126 countries including Britain, but ratified by only 20, excluding Britain. For the people's government to hold up the legislation to further a cause associated with the people's princess that the people also endorse is an uncharacteristic error.

Prodded yesterday by the MP for Knutsford, aka the man in the white suit, Defence Secretary George Robertson revised the

official line, that delay in British ratification of the treaty is due to pressure of parliamentary business. That's a welcome shift but it leaves a bad taste. Quite why, with a majority this size and the Prime Minister's stated determination to modernise the institutions of British government, the Blair Cabinet need be as timid is hard to see. Parliamentary timetables are creative endeavours, not forces of nature. Mr Robertson's objection — that it would be difficult for British soldiers to operate alongside forces from allied countries which had not ratified the treaty — is unconvincing. He means the United States and so begs the response that Britain can surely enjoy steady and close military relationships within Nato without having to endorse the American belief that the border between the two Koreas can be defended only by anti-personnel mines. Di coins and all the rest of the memorabilia will do no harm, even if they won't do much good. A landmine ban might save lives and shattered limbs. The Government knows its deadline — the anniversary of her death. For the Diana Treaty, it has plenty of time to find the time.

Carry on digging

Allotments must be preserved

YESTERDAY'S report from MPs on the threat to the nation's allotments is not the first such call under a Labour government. Three decades ago, a committee of inquiry into allotments during Harold Wilson's government produced 44 major recommendations, none of which was implemented. The earlier report may have deserved to be doomed with its misplaced faith in town-planners: all allotments were to be made subject to a programme of landscaping

under a landscape architect with no tenant permitted to erect any structure without the prior approval of the planning authority including "design, materials, size, colour and location". If even allotments were not to be allowed their traditional element of anarchy — from improvised fences to makeshift sheds — what price democracy? But yesterday's report is different. It charts a fast-disappearing way of life not due to changing lifestyles but, ironically, because of inadequate protection from planning authorities.

Under the present law local councils can only dispose of allotments with the approval of the Environment Secretary. Yet the recent rate of loss — 50 sites a year — has continued unabated under John Prescott. The MPs rightly express alarm at the rate at which they are being swallowed up for development. Since the height of the allotment movement in the second world war's dig-for-victory campaign that produced 10 per cent of the nation's food — plot numbers have plummeted from 1.4 million to 300,000. The MPs rightly want stronger checks on sales to stem the loss.

The demand for allotments has not died away. Moreover, the traditional image of the allotment-holder — the retired man with a Spam sandwich in his satchel — is changing too: 35 per cent of cultivators are under 50 and six per cent under 35. The original purposes — to provide cheap food and allow industrial workers some fresh air — may have been superseded, but there are still plenty of city dwellers in search of "the good life". A recent survey of allotment-holders suggested half held managerial posts. There are 15,000 people on lists waiting for plots. Even planners now recognise that, although the quality and appearance of allotments vary, they remain, in the words of the Royal Town Planning Institute yesterday, "part of the rich fabric of urban life".

Letters to the Editor

Biology and meteorology

AM I the only one of your readers to be somewhat confused by Nicholas Winter's assertion that the Lord Almighty had meant men to commit sodomy with other men their bodies would have been built differently" (Vote on age of consent for gay sex routes passions, June 23)? Given that sodomy refers to penetrative anal intercourse using the penis, my partner and I repeatedly find that we have all the necessary equipment, suitably positioned for the purpose. In fact, it is difficult to see how Mr Winter would improve on the arrangement. In the interests of public education and enlightenment, I think you should ask him to describe in detail his suggested biological model for the new gay man. Preferably with diagrams.

Jonathan Smith, Brighton.

Ms vote for equality and a shrewd Alan Shearer on the front of the Guardian. Did Christmas come early? Peter Bradshaw, Liverpool.

WORST films ever (Letters, June 20)? Bulldog Drummond with Ronald Coleman and Joan Bennett. It is so dire that one becomes hypnotised by its banality. In one scene, the negative film was assembled back to front — so the obligatory handkerchief in the top pocket is on the right, not the left.

Les Jones, Wolverhampton.

ZIEGFELD Polles, seen twice by mistake. Sigrid Rabiger, London.

If proof were needed of the Guardian's shift of origin from Manchester to London it can be found in your weather forecast (June 23). "The much-awaited summer finally showed signs of arriving." It's still raining in Manchester. John Reade, Manchester.

SHOULD water company bosses decide to reward themselves for averting drought this summer, would their bonuses be subject to a rainfall tax? Martin Brown, Coventry.

Parties and democracy

EWAN MacAskill's analysis on party membership (Stuff that envelope, June 23) avoids any discussion of the reason why mass membership has so declined. I recently concluded a study and found that, although there are analogies to be drawn with other European states there are differences in the UK which have contributed to the political party's demise.

Firstly, the adversarial style of our system is seen as irrelevant to the "post-materialist" ideals of the late-20th century. Our electoral system is incapable of challenging the status quo unless there is a massive tactical swing, as in 1987. Furthermore, centralisation has removed democratic control from local communities; individuals have turned instead to pressure groups.

Membership of special-interest groups has soared. Take the environmental groups. Friends of the Earth, at over 100,000; Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature, each at over 215,000. Yet the Green Party is hovering at around 4,500.

Ewan MacAskill argues that in the computer age active membership may be unnecessary. But participation by members gives legitimacy to democracy. Lobby groups are not subject to the democratic process. Thus the demise of a party represents the decline of democracy.

Judy Maciejowska, Twickenham, Middx.

WHEN I cut my Labour Party card last year and sent it to the local party secretary in disgust, I didn't think for one moment that I would be setting a trend.

My disgust was due to the spoiling tactics of the Shrewsbury Labour Party, who didn't have a chance in hell of winning but, by splitting the vote, allowed Michael Howard back in!

Can I claim to be the first

Labour Party member in the country to have resigned as soon as Labour won the 1997 election? Franklin, Folkestone.

IT IS no surprise that Labour Party membership is declining. Before the election, I was flooded with information and appeals. Since then, silence. Loss of interest in the members, and they'll lose interest in you. Peter Burns, Shipton under Wychood, Oxon.

HUGO Young may be right in his criticism of the fall in Labour Party membership shows the frivolity of 1997 allegiances. Many predicted that new recruits would disappear like "snow off a dyke" when the going got tough. But I suspect analysis would also reveal a loss of long-standing supporters. For some of us there never was a honeymoon.

Tony Sabine, Edinburgh.

IT really does sum up British politics when a Tory Temple Morris is welcomed into the Labour Party and real Labour members are threatening legal action over the selection process in Scotland.

It proves Tony Blair's "new" Labour is just rebranded Conservatism. Charter 88, where are you now. Male Whitehead, Hale, Cheshire.

When Conrad met Casement

KEVIN Power (Letters, June 22) is not entirely right in challenging Jim McClelland's view of the genesis of Heart of Darkness (Letters, June 17). His account, while broadly correct, does not do justice to the meeting of Joseph Conrad and Roger Casement near Boma, at the mouth of the Congo. Conrad's contemporary biographer, Ford Madox Ford, vividly describes a poisoned, delirious Conrad on the fringe of the bush on the west coast of Africa, sucking some life-saving sustenance from a tin of condensed milk when he sees: "... between the satin sea and the steaming trees. A man, with sunlight on his face

spite their brief acquaintance in the Congo, he refused to support him.

The reasons appear to be complex, related to his insecurity in the face of wartime xenophobia — he was frequently suspected of being a spy, his dislike for terrorism, his fear of the powerful homophobia of the time, and his Polish hatred of Germany, which he accused of trying to spill Irish blood in future wars.

He must also have realised that support for Casement from a foreign author with the name of Korzeniowski, accused of writing immoral books and widely though incorrectly believed to be a Jew, would hardly have helped his cause.

Roger Tennant, Lutterworth, Leics.



Why McLibel film wasn't shown

IN response to Franny Armstrong's article about her McLibel film (Screen, June 19), a few points to set the record straight.

Heart of the Matter did not commission this film, but was approached very late in the day by Ms Armstrong after her attempts with other broadcasters had failed.

I tried hard to turn the film into something the BBC could transmit. But so many problems remained to do with copyright and covert recording — rather than simply libel issues — that it proved impossible to broadcast.

As for the allegation that I prevaricated over a contract, the description of events is just not true. Perhaps it was more useful for Ms Armstrong to say that the film couldn't be run by mainstream broadcasters than to make a film which met the legal and editorial standards they require.

The result was that the defendants' story was never told in detail on British television. I think that as their producer Franny Armstrong, rather than the broadcaster, bears responsibility.

Anne Reeve, Editor, Heart of the Matter.

WE call on those in the media to defend public rights and ensure documentaries such as McLibel are shown, whatever the litigious record of those scrutinised.

Helen Steel, Dave Morris, McLibel defendants, London.

Tap tappit

RE wheeltappers (Letters, June 23), older readers may recall The Wheeltapper's Song by Clifford Saylor and Wolsey Charles, published in 1923.

I works on the railway, a tapper I be. You might all be dead if it wasn't for me. I tramps down the train when the wheels be at rest. My hammer you'll hear as I pass them to test!

I sparks them! I clanks them! Tap tappit! Tap tappit! Each wheel's rollers out when it's wheeled.

For wheels be like women, some good and some true. And some be deceitful and crack! Spit!

Prick! Spit! Liverpool.

YOU can watch wheeltappers at work at stations all over Russia just as Tolstoy described them in Anna Karenina. As they walk the length of the trains, locals with home-baked produce scramble under the trains as a short cut to customers on the far side. Karen Hewitt, Oxford.

Glastonbury's bankers got what they were asking for

AS someone who has been co-ordinating information at the Glastonbury Festival since the early 1980s, it is sad to see your front-page piece deriding the provision of a cash machine on the site.

We all make use of banks and expect access to them in almost every situation. Glastonbury is no exception, but the demand has come from the festival-goers, partly by being victims of crime. The Guardian itself is involved in providing an easier passage through the festival, and now NatWest and BT. We made approaches to more ethical banks, but none would risk being there. The provision NatWest offered was popular last year, so they are building on it.

It is no exaggeration to say that Glastonbury is the only festival that has any credibility in its ethical stance. Huge amounts of money have been given away over the years, first to CND, then Greenpeace, WaterAid and Oxfam as well as numerous smaller organisations. The festival is principally run for the good cause — it's not called Worthy Farm for nothing. Stephen Abraham, Somerset.

AS an Archdruid unable to get a ticket for Stonehenge on a solstice this year, I would like to supplement your report on the ceremony.

There were numerous pilgrims who were not among the 100 admitted by English Heritage. I was among the Druids who celebrated the solstice outside the official group. Others, such as King Arthur Pendragon, deliberately chose to stand with the pilgrims despite an exclusion order. I walked to an adjacent field and with 25 others performed a simple ceremonial Gorsedd. Afterwards we moved on, at the request of the police. Mog-Or Kreeb Dragonrider, Scaynes Hill, W Sussex.

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Maureen O'Sullivan

A nice girl in the jungle

SHE was a nice, convent-educated Catholic girl, and yet she will always be remembered in the eyes of filmgoers as a scantily-clad woman living in sin with a near-naked animalistic hunk of a man. Maureen O'Sullivan, who has died aged 87, played Jane to Johnny Weissmuller's Tarzan in six of the best of the many films based on the life of Edgar Rice Burroughs' jungle hero.

No plain Jane she, the shapely, dark-haired, dimpled O'Sullivan was barely 21 when she landed the role opposite the beautifully-chiselled 27-year-old Olympic swimming champion Weissmuller in *Tarzan The Ape Man* (1932). After Tarzan has literally swept the English explorer's daughter off her feet and through the jungle, Jane spends the night in his tree-house alone with him and Cheeta, his pet chimp. At the end of the picture, she decides not to return to civilisation, but stay with her muscular nature boy.

The relationship developed into a sexy and sparky one through *Tarzan And His Mate* (1934), *Tarzan Escapes* (1936), *Tarzan Finds A Son* (1939), *Tarzan's Secret Treasure* (1941) to *Tarzan's New York Adventure* (1942), although the puritanical Production Code gradually insisted the couple covered themselves more in

the tradition of "Play it again, Sam" and "Come with me to the Casbah", the line "Me Tarzan, you Jane" was never actually spoken on screen. The couple's introductory conversation merely consists of "Tarzan-Jane." "Jane-Tarzan."

Although the films were made on the MGM backlot, O'Sullivan remembered: "I was never more consistently sick and miserable in all my life. I was never without an ache or a pain. I was never

Bennett, younger sister of Greer Garson's Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* (1940). She was also in *Anna Karenina* (1935) as the woman who loses her lover to Greta Garbo's Anna.

Maureen O'Sullivan was born in County Roscommon in Ireland, and was educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Roehampton, London, where she was a schoolmate of Vivien Leigh, with whom she was later to star in *A Yank At Oxford* (1938),

(1932), in which she was touching as a woman afraid to marry a man with madness in the family; *The Thin Man* (1934), where she begs Nick and Nora Charles to find her missing father; and *A Day at the Races* (1937), providing the romantic interest that interrupted the crazy antics of the Marx Brothers.

In 1942, O'Sullivan retired from the screen to raise her growing family of seven children by the writer-director John Farrow, whom she met and married in 1936 when he was writing the screenplay of *Tarzan Escapes*.

Her third child, the actress Mia Farrow, recalled her as a terrific mother, full of fairy tales, with a soft voice and a soothing manner. She wasn't that involved in the more physical aspects, such as feeding and dressing us. And we lived in a separate part of the house and always had a couple of nannies. But the time I shared with my mother was of the top quality. She was a mystical figure, and I sort of romanticised her.

O'Sullivan returned to the screen in brief roles in *The Big Clock* (1946) and *Where Danger Lies* (1950), two excellent thrillers directed by her husband, a Catholic convert, who wrote books on Sir Thomas More and the papacy. (He died in 1963, O'Sullivan only remarrying 20 years later.)

Among O'Sullivan's few films over the years were *Bonzo Goes To College* (1952), again playing with a chimp; and a fine Western, *The Tall T* (1957), in which she was Randolph Scott's supportive wife. She also had a long run on Broadway in *Now Too Late*, playing her as Mia's mother of a married daughter who discovers she's going to have another baby. (O'Sullivan repeated the role in the forgettable 1965 version of the play.)

In 1967, she was cast by Woody Allen to play Mia Farrow's retired actress mother in *Hannah and Her Sisters*, which was shot in the large Central Park West apartment which Mia had shared with her mother. A year later, Allen again cast her as Mia's mother in *September*, but after shooting it, he decided that she was unable to play a character described as "a boozy old flirt with a filthy mouth", and reshot it with Elaine Stritch.

This did not endear him to his mother-in-law, and when the *Soon-Yi* scandal hit the headlines, she called Allen a "desperate and evil man", leading public support to her daughter.

Ronald Bergen
Maureen O'Sullivan, actress, born May 17, 1917, died June 22, 1998



You Jane... Maureen O'Sullivan and Johnny Weissmuller in *Tarzan Finds A Son* (1939)

Woody Allen didn't endear himself to his mother-in-law by deciding that she couldn't play a character described as 'a boozy old flirt with a filthy mouth'

without a bite from one of those monkeys. I always had the same average - one fresh bite, one about half-healed, and one scar." While Weissmuller went on to make six more Tarzan movies, O'Sullivan, who had a lovely, lilting voice, continued her parallel career as an MGM ingénue, mostly playing well-bred young English ladies such as Henrietta Barrett, younger sister of Norma Shearer's Elizabeth in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* (1934), Dora, the sickly child-wife of David Copperfield (1934), and Jane

in *Robert Taylor's* affections. After attending finishing school in Paris, O'Sullivan was discovered in 1932 in a Dublin café by American director Frank Borzage, and offered a contract with Fox. After her debut in Borzage's *Song O' My Heart* (1930), she made a few further films at the studio including *A Connecticut Yankee* (1931), starring Will Rogers, in which she played Princess Allsande. Among her other non-Tarzan pictures at MGM was a film version of Eugene O'Neill's *Strange Interlude*

Letter

JAP Dutton writes: In 1957, when Andy Capp was born, I had just left (West) Hartlepool for the world of work; my childhood was 16 years later than Reg Smythe's. Your obituary (*June 19*) is a little severe in calling it "a grimy run-down industrial conurbation." When I brought my fiancé for a visit in 1960, he agreed that there were shabby parts. But he was surprised at the extent of what he called the middle-class area, the width of many streets, the fine public parks and the many very big and well-kept houses. "Who lives in all those houses?" he asked, adding that in his birthplace, Chester, only the rich could afford to live in houses like those. I told him that houses were much cheaper in Hartlepool than in Chester and that the big houses were built between about 1880 and 1914, when the town prospered on shipbuilding and seaborne trade. I'm glad Smythe didn't shun his home town as so many provincials do. I should have liked to live in Hartlepool myself, but it has never been possible for me to go back.

By the way, according to Dixon & Mithras' book *Victorian Architecture*, it possessed Britain's first completely steel-framed building, a department store erected in 1896. I believe that this building has now been demolished.

Cressida Ridley

Picking up the pieces in ancient Greece

THE high point of the research carried out by the archaeologist Cressida Ridley, who has died aged 81, was the excavation she directed in 1971-73, in collaboration with Dr Katerina Romaniopoulou of the Greek Archaeological Service, at the important neolithic settlement of Servia in Macedonia. This produced a long sequence of human occupation and some of the best early wooden architecture known in Greece.

The study of the finds took many years, but she had the devoted support of Ken and Diana Wardle. In the last days before going into hospital, she read and approved the text of the first volume of the final report, *Servia: A Rescue Operation*.

Cressida Ridley was an authority on the neolithic archaeology of northern Greece and surrounding areas. From 1962 to 1983, she was an indispensable member of British and Greek field projects, of all periods.

She was born into the heart of the Liberal enlightenment, but she did not receive any formal higher education until she was 44, when she enrolled to read for a diploma at Lon-



An English summer... Cressida Ridley at a cricket match with Siegfried Sassoon and a young family friend in 1954

don's Institute of Archaeology. Her first dig in Greece was on the islet of Salagos, off Antiparos, under John Evans, her mentor at the Institute, and the young Colin Renfrew (now Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn).

Ridley had the sharpest of intellects, a deep curiosity about music, literature and nature, and an empathic way of delivering opinions - qualities honed by talk and argument with her friends and family. Here lay the education of her childhood, apart from several seasons of travel on the continent, especially to Austria.

Her family could not have been more Liberal. As a child of Sir Maurice and Lady Violet Bonham Carter, she was the granddaughter of the sometime prime minister

Herbert Henry Asquith, while the Liberal leader Jo Grimond married her sister Laura in 1938. "It seemed to me there was a gracious stability about this family which made me long to be accepted by all its members," Philip Toynbee wrote in *Friends Apart* (1964), his memoir of Esmond Romilly, first husband of Jessica Mitford, and Jasper Ridley, whom Cressida married in 1939. She trained as a nurse during the war, working at London's Royal Free Hospital, and also worked for a short time with the Psychological Warfare Unit. Both Esmond Romilly and her husband Jasper were killed in the war. Ridley while escaping from a prison camp in Italy in 1943, fired by the news of the successful escape of Cressida's brother, Mark Bonham Carter.

A bleak time began for Cressida, which had a huge impact on her life. In 1946 she settled in Stockton, Wiltshire. She suffered a lot but came through as a person of deep and imaginative generosity. Although famous for her apparently condemnatory one-liners, she was a shrewd and eagle eye at spotting absurdity and the discrepancies be-

tween what people profess and what they do, she was never unkind, one came to realise. She knew too much of the changing fabric of life ever to think on those lines.

Volunteering for digs in Wiltshire in the 1950s led to her love of archaeology. At the Institute, she specialised in European prehistory. Thereafter, in 1965, she went out to the British School at Athens - the United Kingdom's eccentric, lovable and distinguished research institution in Greece, housed in a late Victorian villa in a large garden in the centre of the city - holding an award from the school for long-term research in the Greek neolithic.

Many years followed of spreading shards in museum storerooms and studying sites. She also gave generous time to helping others, as a subordinate, on their excavations throughout Greece. While the first to volunteer for chores her greatest contribution to dig directors was her skill as a trench supervisor at the intellectual and artistic challenge of sorting stratigraphy and a three-dimensional crossword puzzle with many clues missing.

Gerald Cadogan
Helen Cressida Ridley, archaeologist, born April 22, 1917; died June 10, 1998

Her famous work in this capacity was the deep sounding at Lefkandi in Euboea, an eight-metre deep trench running through hundreds of layers of human use from the third millennium to 700 BC. It needed exceptional pertinacity, artistry and feeling for the evidence - which was primarily earth. After this sounding, she seemed so willing to tackle others that an American friend of the School remarked, "I can never visit a British dig without finding Cressida Ridley at the bottom of the deepest hole".

Of her plucky judgments, one treasure comes from the time when she was working on my dig at Myrtos-Pyrgos in south Crete. We were about to have a party and, as a riposte to the Cretan dancing, were practising eightsome reels on the beach. One member would not join in. "That's the trouble with Marxists," said Ridley. "They never know how to enjoy themselves."

She is survived by her son Sir Adam Ridley.

Laxmikant

Scores of hits for Hindi films

WITH the death of Laxmikant, at the age of 61, the most popular composing partnership in Hindi film music history, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, which began in the early 1960s, has ended.

After three abortive projects the two composers had a major success with the 1963 hit *Parasmani*, whose sizzling number *Hanshi hua naram chakra* is still popular. That film was followed by the award-winning *Dost*, about two poverty-stricken young friends. It was said to be partly modelled on Laxmikant's childhood in Pune. Once he had stolen 10 rupees for food and spent the change on a month's organ. Discovered playing it - badly - his shoemaker employer had beaten him up.

Before he met Pyarelal, Laxmikant had worked as an actor, and as an assistant with film composers like Kharoshkar, Prakash, Gulam Mohammed and Kalyani-Anandji, with whom Laxmikant and Pyarelal were later to sustain an intense rivalry.

Pyarelal and Laxmikant met via the legendary Hindi playback songstress Lata Mangeshkar, and it was Laxmikant who proved the more talented and imaginative. Their music was crucial to a number of hit films between the 1960s and the early 1980s, and they provided the scores for more than 300 films. A key virtue was that, unlike some composers of the 1960s and 1970s, they never resisted progressive measures and had an ability to swim with the tide which they retained into the 1980s, a decade in which they provided an island of excellence in the ocean of mediocrity that is 1990s Hindi film music.

Hareesh Pandya
Laxmikant, film composer, born May 4, 1937; died May 25, 1998

Birthdays

Davey Morgan, Assistant Secretary General, 72; Peter Blake, painter, illustrator, 66; Eddie Floyd, soul singer, 63; Cyril Fletcher, broadcaster, 85; Derek Foster, Labour MP, 61; Margaret Gray, actress, 85; Shireen Larmet, film director, 74; Vic Marks, cricketer and writer, 43; Roy Marsden, actor, 57; George Michael, singer, 35; Richard Morgan, Oxford, 58; Carly Simon, singer and songwriter, 53; Patrick Tambay, racing driver, 49; Robert Venturi, architect, 73; Moray Watson, actor, 70; Doreen Wells, former ballerina, 61; Peter Wright, cricket umpire, 68.

Memorial Services

GROAN, Steven, 68pm on Sat July 4. The Wigners, 68pm on Sat July 4. In celebration of his life.

Birthdays

POLLEY, Judith, happy birthday with love from family and friends. 61st year your wonderful presence brings joy to all. 61st year your wonderful presence brings joy to all. 61st year your wonderful presence brings joy to all.

A Country Diary

HIGHLANDS: Over 260 people contributed to the latest annual Highland Bird Report and the area covered includes the old counties of Inverness-shire, Ross-shire and Sutherland. The report includes the results of the continuing re-introduction programmes for red kite and sea eagle, and there are also accounts of the long-term work being carried out by the Highland Raptor Study Group on such birds as peregrine, golden eagle, merlin, kestrel and buzzard.

Eighty-three sites for black-throated divers were monitored by the RSPB and it was sad to see that, yet again, eggshells took their toll, as they did with ospreys. A particularly interesting part of the report is the review of the year, a monthly account of the more interesting records, as this gives an idea of what birds people can expect to see and where. These included a large number of waders in January, although on the debit side many stonechats and wrens were killed by the cold weather of that month. In April there were an impressive 75 great northern divers in Gruinard Bay on the west coast and a hoopoe at Glenelg in the same month. In May there were scattered records of turtle doves, classed as a scarce migrant just for north. A male snowy owl spent the summer - alone - on the Cairngorm Plateau while a pair of rare marsh harriers bred on the RSPB reserve at Insh Marshes - the

first proven breeding in the area covered by the report. Often the localities are just as exciting as the birds, such as Balmakel Bay in north-west Sutherland, the island of Elig on the west coast or the Moray Firth on the east. A stimulating and revealing report that can be obtained by sending a cheque for £15.50 (inc. p&p) to Colin Crooke, c/o RSPB North Scotland Office, Stive House, Beechwood Park, Inverness, IV2 3BW.

RAY COLLIER

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR coverage of the Commons debate on equalising at 16 the age of consent for homosexuals and heterosexuals we attributed remarks to Sir Patrick Cormack which distorted what he said. We said he claimed that he believed that homosexuals were "not only different" from heterosexuals but should not be regarded "as equal or equivalent". Sir Patrick, as Hansard confirms, was speaking not of homosexuals, but of homosexual practices. What he actually said was, "I speak, quite unashamedly, for the traditional, orthodox Christian point of view, which holds that homosexuality and lesbian practices are not another and an equivalent normality; and which holds that they are practices that not only are different from heterosexual behaviour, but should not be ranked as equal or equivalent to it."

TECHNICAL problems created mayhem on some copies of Page 3, *Guardian Sport*, yesterday, combining elements intended for different editions of the paper. It meant that the captions on the page did not relate to the pictures, and one of the headlines did not relate to the story that

appeared beneath it. Apologies.

THE SCOTLAND player sent off in the World Cup game with Morocco, was not George Burley, as we said in our Page 1 report yesterday. It was Craig Burley, as we reported correctly on Page 1 of yesterday's *Sport* section. George is Craig's uncle.

IN THE Glossaire/glossary, with the Language column, Page 8, *Guardian Education*, June 23, we gave the wrong meaning of the initials CFDT, saying they stood for Confédération Française des Travailleurs. We should have said, Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail. The CFDT is not a union, but a confederation of unions, something like the TUC, though France has three such bodies. Latest published membership figure for the CFDT is 701,180 (December 1997), followed by 647,200 members of the CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail) and an estimated 400,000 members of Force Ouvrière.

JENNI Murray, describing a planned trip to New York with her family, Page 9, *Guardian Travel*, June 20,

said, "After staying in New York we shall be going to Grand Central Station to take a train to Boston, a fantastic journey." No trains to Boston leave from Grand Central. They go from Penn Station.

THE CHILD shown in a photograph with Louise Woodward, Page 2, June 23, was not Matthew Eappen, as captioned, but Brendan Eappen.

THE PRESS Association reporter who was injured by a gang of "English hooligans" in Toulouse, Page 4, June 23, was Andrew Woodcock, not Andrew Woodward. Sorry.

THE NAME of the television presenter Johnny Vaughan was misspelled in an article headed, *Celebrity nobodies*, Page 18, June 23. Sorry.

FOR THE past two weeks, June 11 and June 18, OnLine has re-located Microsoft's headquarters to Richmond, suggesting a move to west London or Yorkshire. The home of the company remains in Redmond, near Seattle, Washington state.

Ten Dancing Dinosaurs: On April 21, *Guardian Education*, with Oxford University Press,

launched a competition inviting children of 12 and under to illustrate a poem, *Ten Dancing Dinosaurs*, by John Foster. We had hoped to announce the winners this week but the competition attracted far more entries than expected. We now hope to publish the names of the winners on July 14, before the end of the school term. *Guardian Education* want to apologise for the delay.

G2 is being pre-printed during the World Cup to facilitate production of the *Guardian Sport* section. This is causing occasional problems, for instance with late changes in television programmes among which, on Monday, the Panorama interview with Louise Woodward failed to appear. Normal service will resume after the final whistle.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5520 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, *The Guardian*, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk

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June 25 1998

TOMORROW: Dash for

Financial Editor: Ben Clark
Editor: Alex Brummer
Phone: 0171 239 5520
Fax: 0171 239 5897

AT&T in \$48bn cable deal

AT&T's largest telephone company, AT&T, announced yesterday a \$48 billion purchase of Time Warner Cable, marking the start of a new era for the company. The deal would give AT&T a major role in the cable industry, and would create a new media giant. The deal would also give AT&T a major role in the cable industry, and would create a new media giant. The deal would also give AT&T a major role in the cable industry, and would create a new media giant.

Telecom deals

AT&T-TC deal valued at \$48bn

BT WorldCom deal valued at \$37bn

BT-Meridian deal valued at \$25.6bn

EC snaps up telecoms state

The EC is planning a series of aggressive acquisitions in the global telecoms market after the full control of GPT, the largest telecoms company in the world, was taken over by the EC. The deal would give the EC a major role in the telecoms industry, and would create a new media giant. The deal would also give the EC a major role in the telecoms industry, and would create a new media giant.

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AT&T in \$48bn cable deal

Mark Tran in New York

AMERICA'S largest telephone company, AT&T, announced yesterday the \$48 billion (\$29.5 billion) purchase of cable television group Tele-Communications to create a one-stop shop for communications.

If approved by anti-trust regulators, the deal would allow AT&T-TCI to sell long-distance and local calls, wireless, cable and Internet services.

The move represents a direct threat to the regional phone companies, currently monopolising the \$100 billion-a-year market. They have defended their turf tenaciously, but now AT&T has access to their markets through TCI's cable connections into some 17 million homes.

The merger would "offer a full portfolio of services with one connection from one company," said AT&T chairman Michael Armstrong at a New York press conference.

Analysts compared yesterday's merger agreement with the Citicorp-Travelers deal that seeks to provide one-stop shopping for financial services. "It's an innovative step," said Dwight Allen of Deloitte & Touche consulting.

Until recently, AT&T has largely remained on the sidelines as other telecommunications companies have combined. It did try to merge with SBC Communications, the aggressive phone company from Texas, then backed off in the face of opposition from anti-trust regulators.

SBC has since become one of the most powerful players in telecommunications after mergers with Pacific Telesis and Ameritech. The spate of blackouts in Texas has prompted critics to say that the 1996 Telecommunications Act has been undermined.

Congress passed the act to stimulate competition between long-distance, local and cable companies, previously prevented from entering each other's markets.

AT&T officials claimed that

consumers would benefit. "This is the most pro-competitive, pro-consumer combination in the history of the industry," said Leo Hindery, TCI's president. "This is the sort of transaction the 1996 Telecommunications Act was created for."

The merger announcement marked the second big deal for Michael Armstrong since taking over AT&T last October. In January, AT&T paid \$11.9 billion for Teleport Communications Group which provides local phone service for businesses.

Mr Armstrong was brought in when AT&T had lost its way under Robert Allen after a merger with NCR. He had revived Hughes Electronics, after leaving IBM when he was passed over for the top job in favour of Louis Gerstner.

For John Malone, TCI's founder, the deal marks a step closer to his vision of a convergence between cable and telecommunications.

An engineer by training, Mr Malone was the first to sketch out the possibilities of cable, a world of two-way wires capable of carrying phone services, interactive video and a dizzying array of viewing choices. He stands to profit handsomely from the deal as the biggest shareholder.

In 1993, he struck a deal to sell TCI to Bell Atlantic, one of the regional phone companies, for \$16.7 billion. The deal collapsed amid a culture clash between TCI's entrepreneurial style and Bell Atlantic's more stodgy manner.

Under yesterday's agreement, AT&T would own TCI's cable business while maintaining an alliance with TCI's Liberty Media Group, which includes stakes in some of America's most popular cable networks, including Discovery, Black Entertainment Television and Fox/Liberty Networks.

Liberty Media would operate independently under Mr Malone. AT&T would also control TCI's stake in @Home, a leading provider of high-speed Internet access to homes.



Ivan Massow is one of Britain's leading advisers after starting in a squat eight years ago

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Gay entrepreneur makes finance fun for cool and young

Financial advice gets a brand image in Covent Garden, writes Liz Stuart

INDEPENDENT financial advisers conjure an unpleasant image of a sweaty man sitting behind a grey desk in Basingstoke — the antithesis of all things cool.

Enter Ivan Massow. Young, gay and an IFA, he

started in a London squat eight years ago and is one of the largest advisers in the country, with 15,000 mostly gay clients and three branches in London, Edinburgh and Manchester. He hopes to do for financial advice what Rich-

ard Branson, the Virgin chief, did for financial products. Next month he opens a six-storey advice studio designed by Ben Mather, an interior decorator, in Covent Garden, London, next to the Ivy restaurant. The centre, with a refectory, crèche and dog kennel, is designed to appeal to younger people, gay or straight, who usually prefer to visit a dentist than seek financial advice.

Mr Massow has appointed Mother, the advertising agency best known for its Kickers and Channel 5 campaigns, to promote the Massow centre. A £1 million advertising campaign will run in cinemas, trendy magazines, on taxis and even bottles of water sold in gyms and clubs. The

agency will take a small stake in the company. "I have never turned anyone away who wants financial advice. This is about giving help to anyone without prejudice, and that is attractive whether you are gay or straight. It is about young, urban people who are also exactly those most at danger of being targeted by direct selling companies which can be so dangerous in financial terms," said Mr Massow. He plans to open three other such centres within five years.

A Mother spokesman said: "We are going to create a brand. At the moment there are no brands in independent financial advice. If a friend asked me to recommend someone, I would not be able to name a single one."

Caspian to close loss-makers

Jill Treanor

CASPIAN Securities, the specialist emerging markets investment bank set up by one of the City's best-known characters, last night announced it was closing its unprofitable businesses and seeking buyers for others.

The latest casualty of the turmoil in Asia, Caspian has been the subject of speculation for many months, particularly since March, when its founder, Christopher Heath,

stood down as chief executive. At the height of his career in the late 1980s, Mr Heath was one of the City's highest-paid bankers. He made his name at Barings, where he built up its business in Asia.

Anthony Walton, brought in as Caspian's new chief executive in March, advised the board to close the loss-making units and sell out of others on the basis that the group's high operating costs and the depressed state of many emerging markets would make profits difficult to

achieve in the short and medium term. Negotiations are already underway for some of Caspian's operations.

Such is Mr Heath's reputation that he attracted a string of high-profile bankers to Caspian, including Rupert Pennington, former deputy governor of the Bank of England and editor of *The Economist*.

Set up towards the end of 1995, Caspian's aim was to provide a full range of investment banking services in emerging markets. Employing approximately

350 people around the world, its main offices are in London, New York and Hong Kong.

Mr Heath, along with other directors, put his own money in to Caspian.

Mr Walton said last night: "Caspian remains strongly capitalised and it is my view, supported by the board, that the best use of that capital is repatriation to shareholders."

Some of Caspian's clients became anxious about dealing with the group in recent months when emerging market stocks started to tumble.

Ministers review BNFL's American plans

Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels' ambitions to expand in the United States were still under threat last night as ministers reviewed its plans to acquire the nuclear interests of US power engineering group Westinghouse.

BNFL, which remains in state control, denied that any public money would be used for the American deal, estimated to cost \$600 million. "It would be self-financing," a spokesman said.

But ministers are understood to fear that taxpayers will foot the bill for millions of dollars of Westinghouse's nuclear clean-up liabilities in the US and the UK.

Labour is also very sensitive to the possibility that the acquisition would clear the way for large quantities of American nuclear waste to be imported, particularly after the blow to its green credentials over the Dounreay facility dealing with a tiny amount of spent fuel from the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

Ministers are also under pressure from Ireland and Norway about granting BNFL new licences for waste discharges on land, into the sea and into the air. The issue has been placed at the top of the agenda for an international meeting next month.

Westinghouse's nuclear business, put up for sale after it was swallowed by the US television network CBS, specialises in manufacturing reactor equipment and fuel.

Notebook

Oil still trading in troubled waters



Edited by
Lisa Buckingham

IT WAS like a blast from the past yesterday when that best known of cartels, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, met in Vienna to sort out what its members could do to help revive the oil price. For the first time in a while the shenanigans of the 11 Opec countries may actually have some impact on prices and the market. But it cannot be expected to happen overnight.

Oil has now been trading in the \$12 to \$14 a barrel band for some time, and moving it back to the \$14 to \$16 band, or even \$18 to \$20, will be a consequence of a number of factors. Pronouncements of production cuts from Opec, even if they appear credible, will not on their own shift the price into a higher range. Production cuts need the support of other factors, such as increasing demand, continuing shortfalls in the growth of supply outside Opec countries and a really bitter winter to soak up some of the lakes of oil stocks. So don't expect much impact before the end of the year.

The irony, of course, is that the sharp downturn in the oil price since October last year has been, in part, a product of the Saudis' insistence that the market could absorb more production — a decision unfortunately made before the extent of the Asian economic crises or the impact of a mild winter had become apparent.

Sexy pensions

BURIED among those who already have company pensions and PEPs and those for whom saving of any description would bust the weekly budget is a bulging bracket of more or less affluent folk who are simply turned off by the whole idea of personal finance.

The notion of scouring the comparative interest rate tables in weekend supplements or assessing the front-loaded charges on an endowment policy holds all the appeal of a Saturday night croquet class.

It has always been clear that any financial services company which managed to capture the imagination of this group could crack into a hugely lucrative market.

Consumers clearly have the appetite to try something new. In the case, the telephone insurance business, has been hugely successful, while the new breed of super-market bank accounts has already followed and the ubiquitous Richard Branson's Virgin group is demonstrating pulling power in the interminably dull world of personal equity plans.

Still, saving remains dis-

tinctly uncool. And, just as young people do not believe they will be the ones to get pregnant, catch Aids or die of lung cancer, they also cannot imagine their old age, let alone an old age of poverty. Ivan Massow did much to air the problems faced by gays confronted by the immovable wall of tradition surrounding the world of personal finance. Combining coffee, crèches and kennels in a Covent Garden setting certainly makes a statement about just how trendy Mr Massow wants to be.

But the effort to make pensions sexy to twenty-somethings could be much easier if the financial services providers started to set their own trend with simpler, more consumer-friendly products.

Digital control

AT&T's \$48 billion (\$29.5 billion) deal to buy TCI answers one question but poses many more. Investors now know how chief executive Michael Armstrong proposes to reinvigorate the ageing long-distance carrier. In the time-honoured fashion of established businesses, he is buying into what he hopes will be tomorrow's market and technology — in this case digital delivery of data and voice via cable to millions of US homes — just as consumers are getting serious about the Internet and business is getting more skilled at using it.

If the timing is right, then so is the strategic fit. AT&T's great weakness — that it is a long-distance carrier forced at some cost to rely on the Baby Bells for final connection to the customer — is remedied provided TCI's own infrastructure is up to scratch with today's fast-moving technology.

But the price is high — it will dilute AT&T earnings for two years and add some up bags of management time in trying to integrate two companies with very different cultures.

The most important aspects of the deal, though, have yet to come. In the transaction AT&T enters into a position to influence several key developments in the digital era.

Take the UK. By buying TCI, AT&T gains a stake in the BBC's far-reaching deal with the US broadcaster Discovery. It also has an interest in the BBC's partner in British pay-TV, Flaxtech. And there is the link, too, to the UK's second biggest cable company, Telewest.

There remains the prospect that AT&T could well form an international alliance with British Telecom to serve the multinational business community. These links may all be somewhat tangential, consisting of shareholdings in associated companies.

But a clear picture is now emerging of how, and in what form, convergence — the coming together of digital technologies — will create powerful media and communications alliances in the future.

There are two ways of seeing such developments. Either it amounts to an exciting catalyst for change. Or to a regulator's nightmare.

British firms fail to invest in R&D

David Gow
Industrial Editor

MORE than half of Britain's leading 100 companies failed to invest a penny in research and development last year, and a further quarter invested less than one per cent of their overall sales, according to figures underlining the country's poor record.

The annual R&D Scoreboard, compiled by Company Reporting for the Department of Trade and Industry, shows that the 516 companies investigated spent a total of £10.5 billion last year, up 6.2 per cent on 1996. But the UK performance of investing 1.9 per cent of overall sales compares with international

levels of 4 per cent. David Tonkin, director of Company Reporting, said: "If we are not careful we will slowly fade away." Britain had a small number of world leaders. "We are second-rate and the last among the five leading countries."

The others were the US, Japan, Germany and France. Pointing out that 51 of the FTSE 100 companies failed to invest last year, Dr Tonkin said many were in financial services, but also in food retailing and brewing.

Even Harry Ramsden's, the restaurant chain, had spent large sums on R&D. "If a fish and chip restaurant group can legitimately spend money on R&D like product development, why can't companies in almost any sector?"

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 2.675 | Germany 2.918 | Malaysia 6.53 | Singapore 2.70 |
| Austria 20.56 | Greece 491.21 | Malta 0.537 | South Africa 9.56 |
| Belgium 60.26 | Hong Kong 12.54 | Netherlands 3.278 | Spain 248.29 |
| Canada 2.381 | Ireland 1.151 | New Zealand 3.15 | Sweden 12.83 |
| Cyprus 0.857 | Israel 6.09 | Norway 12.54 | Switzerland 2.68 |
| Denmark 11.19 | Italy 2.886 | Portugal 297.24 | Turkey 425.830 |
| Finland 8.982 | Japan 1.00 | Saudi Arabia 8.14 | USA 1.00 |
| France 9.773 | | | |

Sourced by Reuters (including rupee, shilling and dollar)

A black and white photograph of a large, dark, textured vase or urn. The object has a wide, flared mouth at the top and a flared base. The surface appears rough and weathered, with some lighter patches visible. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the side, creating strong highlights and deep shadows. The background is dark and indistinct.

[illegible]

| | C | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| France | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Denmark | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| South Africa | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| South Africa | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Top Goalscorers | | | | | | | | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Denmark | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Paper 88 | | | | | | | | |
| Attendance: 38,140 | | | | | | | | |
| Finalists 13 - Goals | | | | | | | | |
| France | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Dugreny 35, Insa (eq) 78, Henry 80 | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Attendance: 55,077 | | | | | | | | |
| Final 16 - Goals | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | | | 1 |
| McCarthy 58 | | | | | | | | |
| Denmark | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Nelson 13 | | | | | | | | |
| Attendance: 36,500 | | | | | | | | |
| Final 16 - Goals | | | | | | | | |
| France | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Henry 58, W. 77, Trésang 69, Lizarazu 66 | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Attendance: 75,000 | | | | | | | | |
| Final 16 - Goals | | | | | | | | |
| France | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Dortzodé (pen) 13, Petit 58 | | | | | | | | |
| Denmark | | | | | | | | 1 |
| W. Lechner (pen) 45 | | | | | | | | |
| Attendance: 45,600 | | | | | | | | |
| Final 16 - Goals | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Penar 18, (pen) 50 | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Al-Jaber (pen) 45, Al-Thurayy (pen) 72 | | | | | | | | |

| D | | | | | | | | E | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|--|---|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | |
| Nigeria | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | Holland | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | |
| Paraguay | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Mexico | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | |
| Spain | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | Belgium | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | |
| Bulgaria | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | S. Korea | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Round 2 - Montpelier | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paraguay | | | | | | | 0 | South Korea | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | | 0 | vs. South 83 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Attendance: 27,650 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 1 | Mexico | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| vs. Spain 11, Madrid | | | | | | | 0 | Palace 51, Hernandez 75, 84 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 2 | Attendance: 37,268 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| vs. Spain 21, Real 47 | | | | | | | 0 | S. Korea 51, Kim 65, 86 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Nigeria | | | | | | | 1 | Holland | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| vs. Spain 27, Olsh 73 | | | | | | | 0 | Belgium | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Attendance: 33,557 | | | | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| vs. Spain 28, Paris | | | | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Nigeria | | | | | | | 1 | Attendance: 75,000 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Spain 27 | | | | | | | 0 | vs. Italy 30 - Bordeaux | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | | 0 | Belgium | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Attendance: 48,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| vs. Spain 28, St. Etienne | | | | | | | 0 | Wincos 43, 46 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 0 | Mexico | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Paraguay | | | | | | | 0 | Garcia 49, 56 (pen), Blanco 63 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Attendance: 35,300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| vs. Spain 24, Lens | | | | | | | 0 | Attendance: 34,750 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 0 | S. Korea 20 - St. Etienne | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | | 0 | Holland | | | | | | | 5 | | |
| vs. Spain 24 - Toulouse | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nigeria | | | | | | | 0 | Coco 37, Comenari 41, Berghamp 71, | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Paraguay | | | | | | | 0 | Van Hoofden 79, R De Boer 83 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Attendance: 35,300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 0 | South Korea | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | | 0 | Alexander 60, 60 | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| vs. Spain 24 - St. Etienne (Lens) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 0 | Holland | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | | 0 | Mexico | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| vs. Spain 24 - Toulouse | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nigeria | | | | | | | 0 | vs. Japan 20 - Paris (Lens) | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Paraguay | | | | | | | 0 | Belgium | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Attendance: 35,300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 0 | South Korea | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | |
| Yugoslavia/2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 8 | | | |
| Iran | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| US | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Sat. June 14 - St. Bernard | | | | | | | | |
| Yugoslavia | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Mohawks 73 | | | | | | | | |
| Iran | | | | | | | | |
| Attendance: 30,582 | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday June 15 - St. Louis | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Möller 9, Klummen 65 | | | | | | | | |
| United States | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Attendance: 63,675 | | | | | | | | |
| Sun. June 21 - Leeds | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Mohawks (ag) 73, Barhoff 80 | | | | | | | | |
| Yugoslavia | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Mohawks 15, Shofsky 54 | | | | | | | | |
| Attendance: 40,778 | | | | | | | | |
| Sun. June 24 - Lyon | | | | | | | | |
| United States | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Mohawks 67 | | | | | | | | |
| Elli 40, Mahdaviakia 84 | | | | | | | | |
| Attendance: 44,000 | | | | | | | | |
| Friday June 25 - Montclair (night) | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | | | | | | | | |
| Iran | | | | | | | | |
| Friday June 26 - Nantes (night) | | | | | | | | |
| United States | | | | | | | | |

| G | P W D L F A Pts | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 | | | |
| England | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| Czechoslovakia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Tunisia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | | | |
| Mon. June 17 - Marseille | | | | | | | | | | |
| England | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| Czechoslovakia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Tunisia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 54,587 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon. June 18 - Paris | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Czechoslovakia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Tunisia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 37,572 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon. June 19 - Montpellier | | | | | | | | | | |
| Czechoslovakia | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Romania | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Tunisia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 35,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon. June 20 - Toulouse | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| Czechoslovakia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Tunisia | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Attendance: 37,600 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri. June 26 - St-Denis (Paris) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Tunisia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |

| H | P W D L F A Pts | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argentina | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | | | |
| Croatia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Japan | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Jamaica | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | | |
| Sun. June 19 - Toulouse | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argentina | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Japan | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 35,400 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. June 20 - St-Denis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jamaica | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | | 3 | | | |
| St-Denis 20 - Nantes | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Japan | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 35,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat. June 21 - Nantes | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Japan | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 35,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun. June 21 - Paris | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argentina | | | | | | | 5 | | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Jamaica | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Attendance: 49,500 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri. June 26 - St-Denis (Paris) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argentina | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | | 0 | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| GAME 1 Sun. June 27 10.00am (3.00pm) Brazil _____ Chile _____ | GAME 2 Sat. June 26 10.00am (3.00pm) Italy _____ Norway _____ | GAME 3 Sun. June 28 10.00am (3.00pm) Group C winners _____ Group D runners-up _____ | GAME 4 Sun. June 28 10.00am (3.00pm) Nigeria _____ Group C runners-up _____ |
| GAME 5 Mon. June 29 10.00am (3.00pm) Group E winners _____ Group F runners-up _____ | GAME 6 Mon. June 29 10.00am (3.00pm) Group F winners _____ Group E runners-up _____ | GAME 7 Sat. June 30 10.00am (3.00pm) Group G winners _____ Group H runners-up _____ | GAME 8 Tue. June 30 10.00am (3.00pm) Group H winners _____ Group G runners-up _____ |

| QUARTER-FINALS | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| GAME A ▼ | GAME B ▼ | GAME C ▼ | GAME D ▼ |
| Fri. July 1 Huntley (Apex) | Fri. July 3 Shelton vs. T.J. Smith | Sat. July 4 Middletown vs. J. Smith | Sat. July 4 Lyon (Apex) |
| Game 1 winners _____ | Game 2 winners _____ | Game 5 winners _____ | Game 6 winners _____ |
| Game 4 winners _____ | Game 3 winners _____ | Game 8 winners _____ | Game 7 winners _____ |

| PLAY-OFF | | |
|---|--|--|
| Tue. July 7 - Mountain (Sp.) Game A winners _____ Game C winners _____ | Wed. July 8 - Seaside (Sp.) Game B winners _____ Game D winners _____ | Sat. July 11 - Eagle (Sp.) Losers of first semi-final _____ Losers of second semi-final _____ |

Winner of **first** semi-final _____

Winner of **second** semi-final _____

ALL TIMES BST

David Thomsen of France (*Leconsourd*) rises to the challenge of Denmark's Martin Jorgensen at Stade Gerland

Petit provides a little comfort

Jorgensen and Candela fell together as they entered the area. But the elder Landrup responded with a powerful

A black and white photograph of a football pitch during a match. The players are lined up for a throw-in. The Arsenal players are in white kits with red accents, and the Chelsea players are in blue kits. The pitch is green, and the background shows the stadium seating.

Denmark

Ilan Thuram, the right-back, were also rested. Into a vastly altered line-up came the former Arsenal and Tottenham defender. Chelsea centre-back Frank Leboeuf and the right-back Vincent Candela, with Christian Karembeu — better known as a midfield player — taking Thuram's place. Pat

breakaways remained the pattern, the former frustrated by the lack of understanding between Djork Arnerd and Tzvetzvet, the latter by the indomitable figure of Desailly.

France's penalty came after 12 minutes when Jes Høgh, the Danish sweeper, went for a genuine tackle but missed

benefit of the fierce tackling, penetrative passing and powerful shooting he can bring to a team. For Denmark, Søren Colding and Stig Tøfting earned similar rebukes.

France's attacking plans are now wiped clean, except that of Zidane, who celebrated his 26th birthday on the eve of yesterday's match and whose absence will be more evident against France's next opponent.

The Danish players were not the usual "bunch" of players that were sent to the United States to meet Candelaria's pass. Schmeichel got his right glove on Djorkjær's side-footed kick but failed to keep it out.

Both goalkeepers had distinguished themselves — Schmeichel with an improvised parry from Trezeguet's Barthez with a brilliant tip-over from Brian Laudrup's shot — when Denmark equalized after 42 minutes with another penalty. This time the award was less convincing, as Andreas Jensen took a quick free-kick.

France's attack was not as convincing as the Danes' with "freezers" playing less than well. The Danes' pressing, with "less than real" fun, the host nation's defense, are likely to depend, to an unhealthy degree, on the ability of the brilliant Henry who came on for the last 20 minutes in place of the transparent Pires. Not surprisingly, the Danes were the winners in the battles of the coming days.

SUBSTITUTIONS: France: Berglund for Petit 65 minutes; Henry for Pires 70; Guivarch for Trezeguet, 65.

DENMARK: Jensen, 65; Sørensen, 65; Seif for Joergensen, 55; Toffing for Laursen, 70.

CHIEF REFEREE: Donald Donaldson, Scotland. Toffing.

Mark Gleeson in Bordeaux

finished from a tight angle, should have set the tone for a siege of the Saudi goal, but chances were missed repeatedly. Not even the wake-up call of a late first-half penalty, which the midfielder Yousef Al-Tajer sent down under the bar, helped.

do you really

first of all, I want to question when there's no need?

A packed Saudi defence, combined with some poor last touches from the South Africans, saw the raid after replenisement. And as the game wore on, so the task became easier for a Saudi back four where Abdullah Zubramawi was outstanding in a sweeping role.

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...Clemente's
...served only to
...appoint, writes
...loss in Lens

First a Spanish team, but by the time the agony of their defeat had faded it was replaced by a team of overwhelming numbers.

It was a team of overwhelming numbers, a team of a magnificent fashion and night. Spain were to be the events in their Paraguay's victory, retained Nigeria and brief and undisturbed World Cup.

It was Sunday, it was Spanish Americans, who by their way to the Spain's agony first, a place in the finals with the host France. To suggest French will be defeated will be to understand.

Spain fare served up by the members of the Yugoslavia and was not being dressed which linger in. But here was a where the tension was more round game football match.

It was curious scenario who had been seen to the male light work of.

Much money been placed on Clemente's side to win Cup, a fact which the theory that euros and Spanish in Madrid of the Punter is an the dreaming optimism.

Clemente's side occasionally were the suffer as they are achieving it.

Which may yet ugly footnote to six-year reign.

Spain began brighter, their less pronounced half badly flower of old but with a stant menaced dark. But when solves walked a there balance to they was to place one foot in nearly as the slow as.

Luis Enrique was to set, skipping double the penalty urge to for some form of. Predictably, the could not resist, and now steaming to

latter flags but
allows no whist

award presented to him with a second round knockout victory over Marseille last night.

"We are confident we can take their good faith," says the referee, "and the decisions are definite." Keith Cooper, a 21-year-old man who admits he had been no official referee, is uncertain if those errors, if they were, were intentional. "They were errors," he was considered "a little by some — and the sequences that they made."

He also ruled out the video replay. "That's the question," says the referee: "What comes up when you have a video replay system? It's not a good idea."

After examples of refereeing during World War then FIFA's general secretary said that by the 1998 World Cup all referees should be professionals that is still not the case.

Daniel Passarella, while, will score Argentina's comeback goal in the World Cup. He said he would leave when he


education

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Like Us, You Can

The Guardian

NatWest Trophy Scotland brave but Lara still grave

Don Best and Andy Wilson

SCOTLAND succeeded famously but Brian Lara failed miserably again in yesterday's first-round matches. The Scots beat Worcestershire by four runs in Edinburgh while the out-of-form Lara was bowled for a duck by a 22-year-old graduate from Carrickfergus during Warwickshire's match against Ireland at Edgbaston.

Three times in this season's B & H Cup the Scots had winning positions snatched from their grasp by the county professionals and it looked as if the same might happen again when, having reduced their opponents to 98 for six, they saw Stuart Lampitt and Gavin Haynes put Worcestershire back on course with a stand of 181.

However, this time Scotland, having scored 244 for six, had more runs to play with and the county side buckled as the 24-year-old seamer Craig Wright took five for 23.

Lara was undone first ball after tea when he received the wicket to the off-spinner Kyle McCallen; it was his fourth duck of the season and the third in his last four innings.

Nick Knight rode to the rescue with an unbeaten 148 that started Warwickshire to 302 for five and when play ended for the day Ireland were 16 for no wicket.

Lancashire collapsed for the second consecutive cup tie to leave Sussex with a chance of knocking them out of the NatWest for the second consecutive year.

Lancashire, beaten by seven wickets in the second round at Hove last year, reached 134 for one but were dismissed in the 52nd over for 210. This was uncannily similar to their performance in the B & H quarter-final against Surrey at The Oval last month.

Mike Atherton yesterday laid firm foundations and Andy Flintoff hit a quick 35, but Jason Levy transformed the match when he had Atherton caught behind and John Crawley and Neil Fairbrother superbly snapped up by Michael Bevan at slip.

Sussex, however, were 11 for two by the close.

Essex, the holders, began their defence with a crushing 10-wicket victory over Cheshire, for whom Zander Greyling scored only eight as his side were dismissed for 92.

Hampshire v Dorset

Smith breaks with old ties

Paul Weaver at Bournemouth

IT WAS easy to slip into nostalgic reverie here yesterday as a run-miser named Shackleton whirled away in the shadow of Dean Park's trees. Except that this was Julian, not his father Derek, and he was playing against Hampshire, not for them.

But his dad would have been proud: Shackleton was the only bowler not to take a hammering. He was wise enough to bowl his overs straight through at the start of the innings but his figures of 12-6-18-1 were outstanding, particularly for a 46-year-old.

Last season the former Gloucestershire bowler headed the Minor Counties bowling averages for bowlers with 20 wickets or more, with 37 at 13.87.

Hampshire's innings was

revived by a fourth-wicket stand of 179 for 45 overs between Robin Smith (144 not out) and Adrian Aymes (78). Then Smith and Nixon McLean hit a merry 65 from six overs before Smith and Dimitri Mascarenhas slogged 71 from the final five, to finish with a total of 315 for five.

It was Smith's eighth NatWest hundred, a record in the competition and also his third in succession. He faced only 122 deliveries and in an innings of accelerating violence hit 15 fours and four sixes. "It was a bit scary early on but I'm in the runs at the moment and we got into a situation where we were able to launch some big blows at the end," he said.

Hampshire had last played at Bournemouth six years ago so their return to this ground was a cause for much celebration — at least until the cricket started.

Smith won the toss, chose to bat and watched miserably as three wickets went down without a run on the board. Suddenly there was excited chatter about Dorset becoming the ninth minor to beat a mighty in the 35 years of the Gillette Cup/NatWest Trophy.

Giles White was lbw to Shackleton as he pushed half-forward to the third ball of the match, John Stephenson was caught behind off Steve Forshaw in the second delivery of the next over, and in the fourth Paul Whitaker was caught and bowled by the same bowler.

That was as good as it got for Dorset; when rain finally defeated the determined efforts of both players and umpires to stay on the field they were a precarious 51 for three after 13 overs and in need of an improbable 265 further runs today.

Devon v Yorkshire

Hutchison quick to make mark as Devon go west

David Foot at Exmouth

PLAY did not start until half an hour past noon but it was all over by tea. Yorkshire won by nine wickets and Devon's captain Peter Roebuck was the only wicket to fall: Michael Vaughan and Matt Wood trundled along as the kettie was put on. The taken target of 20 was passed short of the 20th over.

Stuart MacGill had the longest bowl and earned due respect. Byas, perhaps wary of the Australian leg-spinner's reputed prowess, lasted only three balls against him. MacGill played for Tiverton Heathcoat last summer when he took plenty of wickets but ended up being banned for a temperamental aberration.

Now playing for Exmouth on Saturdays, he has already represented Australia once and is a strong candidate to take over, at least temporarily, from Shane Warne if unfit.

and Roebuck was technically the best and was the last to go, to one of David Byas's three slip catches.

But all the best bits came from Yorkshire. Byas was the only wicket to fall: Michael Vaughan and Matt Wood trundled along as the kettie was put on. The taken target of 20 was passed short of the 20th over.

Stuart MacGill had the longest bowl and earned due respect. Byas, perhaps wary of the Australian leg-spinner's reputed prowess, lasted only three balls against him. MacGill played for Tiverton Heathcoat last summer when he took plenty of wickets but ended up being banned for a temperamental aberration.

Now playing for Exmouth on Saturdays, he has already represented Australia once and is a strong candidate to take over, at least temporarily, from Shane Warne if unfit.



The roof falls in ... and Norfolk's David Thomas is bowled for 59 by Neil Killeen yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Boon helps trump the wild cards

Mike Solway at Lakenham

IT IS that time of year again. The preliminary matches of the NatWest Trophy are county cricket's equivalent of Henman and Rusedski coming up against a thrusting young wild card with something to prove in Wimbledon's first round. It tests the resolve: win and it was only expected, lose and you weep alone.

Cricketers can be paranoid about these games, particularly those staged on the unfamiliar, often

slow club pitches around the shires, where the strokeplay is inhibited, pace negated and the dilly-dobby bowler reigns supreme. But although tremors occur — witness Norfolk's at Edgbaston last year when Warwickshire were reduced to 25 for six — the counties tend to carry a get-out-of-jail-free card. Only eight times in 25 years of 60-overs cricket has a minnow opened its throat and swallowed a whale.

Durham know all about that, though. As a Minor County they beat Yorkshire

in 1975, and eight years later they beat Derbyshire. But now the gladiators are giants themselves, and Norfolk were never really in a position to challenge once David Boon had won the toss and, with a side loaded with batting, put them in.

Thomas the older, the bowler, was the one to see. Durham know all about that, though. As a Minor County they beat Yorkshire

upped gear that the bowling was put under pressure. But all the best bits came from Yorkshire. Byas was the only wicket to fall: Michael Vaughan and Matt Wood trundled along as the kettie was put on. The taken target of 20 was passed short of the 20th over.

Stuart MacGill had the longest bowl and earned due respect. Byas, perhaps wary of the Australian leg-spinner's reputed prowess, lasted only three balls against him. MacGill played for Tiverton Heathcoat last summer when he took plenty of wickets but ended up being banned for a temperamental aberration.

Now playing for Exmouth on Saturdays, he has already represented Australia once and is a strong candidate to take over, at least temporarily, from Shane Warne if unfit.

Scoreboard

NatWest Trophy

First round

Devonshire v Gloucestershire

Devonshire won by 84 runs.

Devonshire: 101-100 (100 overs)

Gloucestershire: 17-100 (100 overs)

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